

APPENDIX D

Appendix D:

Heritage Tree Data Summary - Diameter

How to use this information

This summary shows the number and percentage of trees in each DBH (Diameter Breast Height) size range. The ranges are given in inches and the trees are measured at 54" above the ground level. The data shows that the largest number of trees, 22 out of 110, (20%) are greater than 48" in diameter.

DBH Summary

Carlsbad Heritage Tree Inventory

DBH (in inches)	Percentage	Count
03-06	2	1.82%
06-12	13	11.82%
12-18	15	13.64%
18-24	7	6.36%
24-30	20	18.18%
30-36	17	15.45%
36-42	7	6.36%
42-48	7	6.36%
48+	22	20.00%

Total	Number of Planted Sites	110	% of Planted Sites	100.00%
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DBH is the trunk diameter measured in inches at 54" above ground level.

APPENDIX E

Appendix E:

Heritage Tree Data Summary - Height

How to use this information

This summary shows the number and percentage of trees in each Height size range. The ranges are given in feet. The data shows that the largest number of trees, 36 out of 110, (32.73%) are between 15' to 30' tall.

Height Summary

Carlsbad Heritage Tree Inventory

Height (in feet)	Count	Percentage
0-15	2	1.82%
15-30	36	32.73%
30-45	23	20.91%
45-60	21	19.09%
60-75	12	10.91%
75+	16	14.55%

Total	Number of Planted Sites	110	% of Planted Sites	100.00%
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APPENDIX F

Appendix F:

Heritage Tree Data Summary – Canopy Spread

How to use this information

This summary shows the number and percentage of trees in each Canopy Spread size range. The ranges are given in feet. The data shows that the largest number of trees, 33 out of 110, (30%) have canopies that are between 30' to 45' wide.

Canopy Spread Summary

Carlsbad Heritage Tree Inventory

Canopy Spread (in feet)	Count	Percentage
0-15	5	4.55%
15-30	27	24.55%
30-45	33	30.00%
45-60	24	21.82%
60-75	5	4.55%
75+	16	14.55%

Total	Number of Planted Sites	110	% of Planted Sites	100.00%
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APPENDIX G

Appendix G:

Heritage Tree Data Summary – Vigor

How to use this information

This summary shows the number and percentage of trees in each Vigor category. Vigor is a visual assessment of the growth indicators of the tree. The data shows that the largest number of trees, 109 out of 110, (99.09%), are growing.

Vigor Summary

Carlsbad Heritage Tree Inventory

Vigor	Count	Percentage
Growing	109	99.09%
Declining	1	0.91%

Total	Number of Planted Sites	110	% of Planted Sites	100.00%
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APPENDIX H

Appendix H:

Heritage Tree Data Summary – Condition

How to use this information

This summary shows the number and percentage of trees in each Condition category. Condition rating is the result of numerical scores that are given to various parts of the tree and are then calculated to provide an overall condition rating for the tree. The data shows that the largest number of trees, 60 out of 110, (54.55%), are in good condition.

Condition	Count	Percentage
Good	60	54.55%
Fair	45	40.91%
Poor	5	4.55%

Total	Number of Planted Sites	110	% of Planted Sites	100.00%
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APPENDIX I

Appendix I:

Newspaper Articles and other reprinted material

How to use this information

This is a collection of articles from local newspapers discussing various issues and concerns involving trees. Some of the articles are about specific Heritage Trees listed in this study.

Day, September 26, 1930

Carlsbad, Avocado King At Riverside County Fair

Carlsbad leaped into fame this week at the Riverside County Fair, at Riverside, when it captured first honors for having the greatest and best display of avocados in Southern California, and won second prize for the best outside community display.

In the latter contest Chino was first and the republic of Chile, South America, was third. The Carlsbad victory carried an incidental emolument of \$175 in gold.

When it is known that the Riverside fair this year is attracting capacity attendance it will quickly be recognized that such distinctions as those awarded to Carlsbad against formidable contenders will be invaluable as a means of publicity. The attendance at the fair on the second day, Wednesday, was quoted at 30,000, with all indications pointing to similar attendance the remainder of the week.

The Carlsbad display was planned and prepared under the auspices of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and the Carlsbad Avocado club. George Leach, Carlsbad artist designed and built the booth, and L. C. Alles and G. Y. Baker, members of both organizations, are spending the week in Riverside conducting the display, together with Mrs. Alles.

While the capture of the second prize for outside community displays, with entire nations competing for honors, is a record of no small proportion, Mr. Alles telephones The Journal that the award for having the best display of avocados attracted state-wide attention and indisputably clinches Carlsbad's claim in California as being the "Home of the Avocado." Exhibitors of avocados from the older sections of that part of the state conceded that the Carlsbad display outclassed in size, quality and variety the products of other sections.

The Carlsbad display, including its magnificent booth, will be moved intact from Riverside next Monday, when it will be taken to San Diego where it will be on exhibition at the San Diego county fair.

10/27/32

Irving Cummings, Noted Hollywood Director, Picks Carlsbad for Ranching and Country Home

Irving Cummings, noted Hollywood motion picture director, has recently become one of the most enthusiastic sub-tropical ranchers in Carlsbad.

After scouring the country from Santa Barbara to San Diego and far into the inland, Mr. Cummings selected Carlsbad because of its climate, its soil, its absence of wind and storm and frost, and because of its convenience to the center of his professional activities in the movie world.

He has acquired between thirty and forty acres in the heart of the Carlsbad district overlooking the sea which he is rapidly converting into a beautiful

and productive tract, with houses and barns, stock and poultry, in addition to an avocado grove, and large plantings of citrus, specializing in the famous Carlsbad seedless lime which he predicts is to become a formidable contender with the noted Mexican limes.

Although busily engaged in the Hollywood studios, Mr. Cummings declares that his great relaxation in the future will be the developing of his Carlsbad ranch and his country home. Much of the preliminary work of planting and fencing already has been accomplished.

"Next year," says Mr. Cummings,

"I expect only to direct a few pictures, and I am planning to enjoy myself on the ranch."

"This is a wonderful spot, cool in the summer and warm in the winter, not a day in the year when the trees and shrubs and flowers are not blooming and growing. I have enjoyed my travels elsewhere in many parts of the world, but this is to be my home in the future."

Mr. Cummings has enclosed his entire ranch with a high white picket fence, and under his direction men are engaged in landscaping the grounds around the ranch house.

Carlsbad Journal 12/26

CARLSBAD KNOWN AS THE HOME OF THE AVOCADO

BUSINESS CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Carlsbad, the Home of the Avocado, is attracting attention as the ideal place to settle, of all the towns along the coast. As a Los Angeles editor remarked last week—"Carlsbad has everything: the sea, the climate, the agricultural development, the fine class of people. It has school and church advantages, and a live organization of business men, the chamber of commerce, as well as a splendid woman's club."

"Certainly the statement is correct, and Carlsbad is becoming known along the coast, from Los Angeles to San Diego, as the future city of the Coast route. Its slogan, 'Carlsbad, Home of the Avocado,'

is becoming recognized in distant markets, and its entire output of this popular fruit, is contracted for, before it is gathered.

With these advantages in mind, new settlers are coming to Carlsbad weekly, and new places of business are starting so rapidly it is difficult to keep track of the changes. During the past week several shifts in the business game have taken place, and rumors are afloat of others which are to come. The lunch counter, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. W. B. White, was sold to Mrs. Elvira Riggins; Henri De Pingre, an experienced restaurant man from Los Angeles, will build a Sea Food restaurant on the Ocean front, and a new filling station and dancing pavilion are suggested as being in prospect.

Avocado Industry, Origins And Early Groves Play Important Role In Carlsbad's Growth

One of the most important factors in the steady settlement in Carlsbad was the discovery that conditions here were ideal for the raising of avocados.

The summary of the industry has been supplied by L. Dutton James, Calavo field representative, while material concerning four of the early groves comes from a copy of "The Broadway of the Pacific", Circa 1927, loaned for the purpose by Rudy Carpenter of Oceanside.

The avocado industry in San Diego county had its beginning for all practical purposes at Carlsbad. It has grown steadily from a small almost obscure beginning until now it represents the second to largest plant crop industry in the county. San Diego county is the largest avocado producing county in the state and probably produces more avocados than any county in the nation. The annual avocado income in San Diego county is \$4,500,000.00 per year.

The avocado business in Carlsbad had its beginning in the 1920's and grew rapidly, hitting its peak in planting between 1935 and 1940. The peak of production came in the years of 1947-48. Carlsbad was known in the early years as the center of the avocado industry, with the popular Avocado Days being held in this city for several years consecutively.

The avocado industry in Carlsbad would have undoubtedly continued to grow and become a very large industry except for two things that happened almost simultaneously. One, water became a rather critical item, because it was in short supply, and, due to the salt intrusion in the wells, the water available was not of proper quality for avocado production. Two, this area that was ideal for avocado production also was ideal for people. Soon the demand for houses and living areas became more profitable than did the production of avocados or almost any other agricultural crop. As a result the production of avocados in Carlsbad began to decline. These two factors coupled with a demand by the consuming public that better quality fruit be produced and fewer varieties be offered for consumption left many growers with just one alternative, to subdivide their groves for residential purposes.

The avocado, like most other crops, to be profitable to the grower must be produced on less expensive land than is found in Carlsbad and most any part of the coastal section of San Diego. It requires lower taxed land and less expensive water cost.

This once proud avocado center must now relinquish its title to some of the higher producing inland areas and find for itself new glory. Carlsbad is now a small but growing community with good schools, church-

longer can it claim to be the center of avocado production.

The Thompson Grove

The pioneer avocado grove of the Carlsbad district was started in 1916 by Sam Thompson, a veteran nursery-man who came to this locality after spending 14 years in the wholesale nursery business in Orange county. Thompson first established his grove on the present site of the reservoir in Carlsbad, and two years later moved a short distance down the hill, to the location he now has. Here he has a wonderful grove of eight acres on which he conducts an experimental station, developing new varieties of the famous fruit.

Fruit from the Thompson grove captures prizes and silver cups in fairs and exhibits all over the state, and the fame of the pioneer grove of Carlsbad draws many notables to this district. The oldest tree in the Thompson grove is about nine years of age and is an excellent producer. Several new varieties of avocados which he is now developing, give excellent promise, and will rank high in quality, meat and smallness of pit.

Alles Avocado Acres

L. C. Alles has been interested in growing avocados for the last 15 years, and four years ago planted out one acre; three years ago he planted six acres more, and two years ago planted out 19 acres more.

This 28-acre grove is the largest individual planting in San Diego county.

He is a strong believer in planting seedling avocado trees for windbreaks and overhead irrigation.

Alles is president of the Carlsbad Avocado Growers club and a director of the California Avocado association.

Ten acres of unplanted land was recently sold in acre tracts; 15 acres put to avocados and platted have been placed on the market; a 10-acre tract will be retained by Alles as a home site and for the growing of avocados.

The Alles acres are well located within walking distance of the business section of Carlsbad and only a block from the grade school and Union church. The tract is most desirable for home and orchard.

The Litchfield Grove

The Litchfield grove, located in the southern end of Carlsbad, is one of the show places of this locality; not alone is the grove one of the finest in the district, but it surrounds a handsome new Spanish style home, which has recently been built "from avocados".

E. G. Litchfield came to Carlsbad six years ago last fall from Canada, where he was a wheat farmer. He now has a three-acre grove of trees which are of various ages, some of them being five years old.

In speaking of his success as a grower, Litchfield said:

"entire grove, with the exception of when I had a man in the nursery last summer. One man can care for several acres of avocados, but he will have to work eight hours a day and have the right irrigation system. I favor the overhead system, and can irrigate my whole grove that way, with little time by my own efforts. I simply turn on a tap. Some do not like the overhead, but I find it good, although others are good, also; it's just as one thinks."

The A. W. Theisinger Grove

The A. W. Theisinger avocado grove is one of the finest in northern San Diego county, as well as one of the most successful financially, and strange to say, its owner came to Carlsbad six years ago, a jewelry manufacturer, with no previous knowledge of any branch of farming, and has made an outstanding success which has won for his nursery and himself a wide recognition.

Theisinger was engaged in the jewelry business in Los Angeles when his health demanded outdoor work; coming to Carlsbad, he purchased a tract of land overlooking the slough, and the ocean, and here he started growing avocados, as a business. Four and one half years ago he planted 250 avocado seeds, and from this start, now has seventy splendid budded avocado trees, of the Fuerte and Dickinson varieties, which have no equal in all San Diego county. In addition he has a large nursery stock of seedlings and budded avocados.

A visit to the Theisinger nursery is well worthwhile; the writer called there recently, to find its owner busy budding avocados, which are enclosed within a high fence. Entering this enclosure, one is first of all attracted by a splendidly kept orchard, which looks almost as if it has been swept and dusted; next, the visitor is amazed at the splendid growth of the trees which rank as among the finest in the Carlsbad district. In speaking of this fact, Theisinger stated that he attributed the growth his orchard had made to two important factors; care and fertilizing. On the one acre of bearing trees about \$1500 worth of barnyard fertilizer has been used, and this with plenty of water has brought them to their present splendid size.

Theisinger, who is superintendent of the avocado department of the Rancho Vista company, states he has besides his own nursery stock, some several thousand seedling avocado trees, scattered between Carlsbad and Vista, which will be budded this fall.

Avocado Experimentations Result in Major Agricultural Asset For City

From a beginning that was more experimental than anything else, arose an industry in Carlsbad that was to become one of the community's prime assets - the avocado industry. Mrs. Robert Allen and L. Dutton James, Calavo field representative, have compiled information from the Union Title Trust Topics, the files of the California Avocado Ass'n., and from a booklet printed by Armstrong and Newcomb, entitled "The Broadway of the Pacific," edited by Mary Ayer Deupree, for this seventh article on the history of Carlsbad.

From a few scattered plant-

ings made near Carlsbad shortly before 1920, avocado raising in the area has developed to such an extent that it now ranks as one of the region's major agricultural industries. Pioneers in local avocado development include Sam Thompson and John Newberry, who were among the first to recognize Carlsbad's potential as an avocado center.

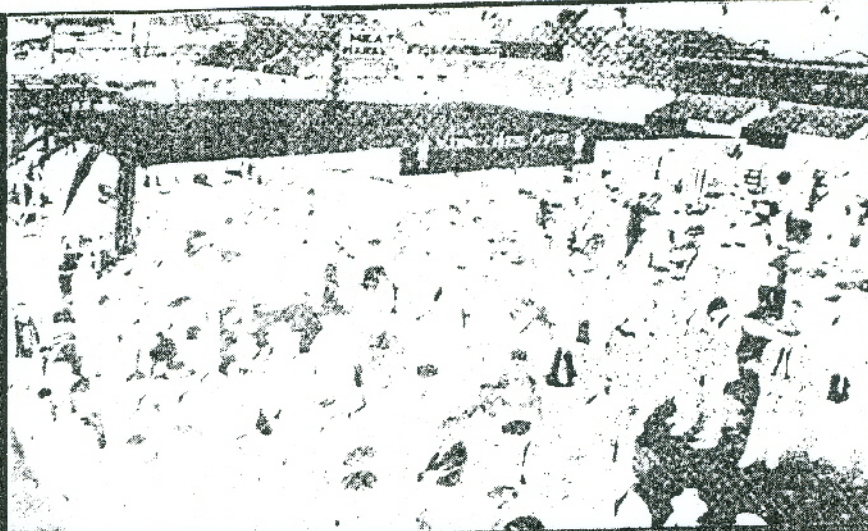
Feeling the need of some sort of an organized headquarters for discussion of various problems pertaining to growing, budding and other handling of avocado groves and nurseries, Sam Thompson, J. R. Newberry

and L. C. Alles called a meeting of growers in the Carlsbad District, early in 1923 and formed the Carlsbad Avocado Growers Club, with an initial membership of seventeen.

At this meeting, J. R. Newberry was elected president; Sam Thompson, vice president; and L. C. Alles, secretary.

Dues of one dollar per year were voted and bi-monthly meetings arranged; the slogan, "Carlsbad, the Home of the Avocado," was adopted; this slogan has since been changed to "Carlsbad, the Natural Home of the Avocado" in order to distinguish it from other districts who were inclined to copy. Before the close of the year, the club had grown in membership to ninety-two.

In the days before avocados reached their present level of popularity, and in an effort to popularize the fruit and focus attention on the fine ranching land available in Carlsbad, the South Coast Land co. was instrumental in sponsoring Carlsbad's famed annual "Avocado Day" celebration. Discontinued before World War II, the affair will long be remembered by many Southern Californians as one of the outstanding fair-type celebrations in the state. It often drew crowds of over 10,000



THOUSAND OF PEOPLE from throughout the southland gathered in Carlsbad during the early part of the century to help local residents celebrate Avocado Day which was held annually. It was discontinued shortly before World War II.

(Avocado Annual Report Photo)

people and, in addition to displays of the various types of avocados popular in Carlsbad, it demonstrated the use of avocados in just about everything from salads to ice cream.

Semi-Annual Meeting of California Avocado Association and Carlsbad Avocado Day, Carlsbad, October 10, 1925

Taken from Calif. Avocado Association annual report 1925-1926:

"One of the best-attended and most interesting meetings ever enjoyed by the people interested in avocados was held at Carlsbad, October 10, when the Carlsbad Avocado Club, co-operating with the Association, entertained a great throng estimated at from 3000 to 3500 persons. The various committees on arrangements, headed by L. C. Alles, Sam Thompson, Chester Craig, G. Y. Baker and others, planned so well that everything went off without a hitch. The expenses of the day, amounting to about \$1500, was raised by popular subscription.

"At 8 a.m. visitors began to arrive, and free automobiles were waiting to carry all who cared to go on sightseeing trips over the district. At noon a splendid avocado luncheon was provided free to everybody. This consisted of avocado salad, avocado sandwiches, avocado ice cream, avocado cake and coffee. Twelve hundred pounds of avocados were consumed. The through auto traffic was diverted to side streets and the main street of the town, which had

just been newly paved, was reserved for the meeting. Luncheon tables occupied the middle of the street, while on one side booths had been provided for exhibitors, and on the other side a large tent with seats housed the afternoon speaking program. Music was furnished by the Carlsbad Orchestra.

"At 1:30 p.m. President Dutton of the Avocado Association called the regular Fall meeting to order. The program which followed consisted of addresses by Dr. Philip Lovell of the Los Angeles Times on "Avocados and Health"; W. B. Gelssinger of the California Fruit Growers Exchange on "Advertising"; C. V. Newman, San Joaquin Fruit Company, on "Growers Experiences" and A.R. Sprague of Rancho Santa Fe on "Co-operation."

"At 7:30 p.m., at the packing house, the people of Carlsbad staged a beautiful operetta, "The Stolen Flower Queen," and this was followed by dancing later in the evening.

"Altogether, the Carlsbad Avocado Day was a great success. Practically everyone seriously interested in avocados was there, and they came from all parts of Southern California. There was ample opportunity for the meeting and visiting to-

gether of old friends and acquaintances. Everyone remarked on the excellence of the luncheon and the hospitality of the Carlsbad people. New converts to the avocado idea had an opportunity of sampling the fruit, viewing the nursery stock, getting reliable information and printed matter, talking to experienced growers, and visiting the many beautiful orchards nearby."

Carlsbad Woman Grows New Avocado Breed

By JIM ESTERBROOKS
Staff Writer

CARLSBAD — It looked like any other avocado seed when Marge Wheldon planted it some 25 years ago.

And nothing really happened during the 24 years since to make her think any differently. The tree was growing, all right, but so were all the others on her property at the corner of Chinquapin Avenue and Adams Street.

Suddenly, however, things have changed dramatically. Wheldon is now being credited with the discovery of a new breed of avocado, one that will bear her name — the Wheldon avocado — once final certification is given by the University of California at Riverside.

"I was just planting the tree in front of the apartment over there so it wouldn't look like a desert plant," Wheldon said from her living room chair. "After the second or third year, I called an acquaintance to come down and graft it, because your normal seed will just revert back to its original root stock. It isn't grafted."

Because the original root stock is not marketable, Wheldon was somewhat concerned when her friend never showed up. She called again the next year (grafting is normally done only in January), but again, the friend never showed.

"Well, at that point, I decided I just wasn't going to graft it, but I still didn't pay any real attention to it, other than to water and fertilize it."

This year, however, when Wheldon had a commercial crew out to pick the tree, some 400 pounds of avocados were harvested, without even touching fruit on the lower branches, which she keeps for herself. The tree is now 35 feet tall and needs 25-foot stakes to support the upper branches because of all the fruit.

"One of the limbs fell, purely because of the weight," she recalled,



MARGE WHELDON may have an avocado named after her.

"and there were over 100 avocados on that one limb. Then we had a freeze and I lost another limb, and there were about 100 more on that one."

"And there were another 100 or so on the lower limbs that had been left full," she added.

The number of avocados ("this was most unusual," she said) their size (about one pound each), and the length of time they stay on the tree ready to pick (more than 5 months) convinced Wheldon to mention her tree to a local nurseryman.

The nurseryman, Charley Ledgerman, told Wheldon she "might just have a new tree" and advised her to contact Oliver Atkins of Fallbrook, another nurseryman who is an acknowledged expert on avocados.

So Wheldon contacted Atkins and soon after sent him some fruit and a limb from the tree. She didn't hear anything for awhile, but when she finally called him back, Atkins said he'd checked her samples and said the characteristics of Wheldon's fruit did not match those of any other known variety.

Atkins, who works closely with the UC Riverside department of agriculture, sent Wheldon the official filing papers. "My first choice for a name was 'the Wheldon avocado,'" she said, smiling, "and so was my second choice."

With only about 100 different varieties of avocados in existence, Wheldon's discovery is noteworthy, especially in the avocado kingdom of North County. "I think the whole thing has been great," she said. "It's been real fun for me."

Wheldon, who has lived in Carlsbad for 45 years, enjoys the idea of having an avocado named after her. "It's certainly not something that happens to you every day."

Besides ranking among the pioneer avocado growers of California, the Thompson nursery and grove produces many interesting sub-tropical fruits which are being experimented with by Sam Thompson and his son, George. The latter took 21 prizes at the county fair in San Diego this fall on his exhibit of sub-tropical fruits. In the display were sapotas, fejoas, Passion Fruit, chermoya, or, as it is commonly known, custard apple, and the Chinese fruit, jujube. The Thompsons are now experimenting with the growing of mangoes and papayas.

UNDATED

Calavo Prepare For '35 Tonnage

Sixteen full carloads of box materials, for the packing of the large 1985 avocado crop, have just been ordered direct from the mills by the Calavo Growers exchange. Due to rapidly rising lumber prices, the order has already saved the exchange considerable in costs.

The Calavo Growers' plant will be able to handle the huge crop increase, of three to five times that of the current season, with but few additions to present facilities. Two packing-house shifts may be necessary next season. A double shift, however, will enable the plant to be used at top efficiency, and will thereby cut all packing-house costs lower than those of the current season which are the lowest in the Exchange's entire history.

UNDATED

A DREAM OF GREEN

The water that turned Carlsbad green also brought a flood tide of agricultural entrepreneurs, eager to share in the promised bounty of the newly fertile land. From the worn-out soil of Los Angeles and the colder climes of the Midwest came growers of avocados and flowers. Their lush groves and colorful fields soon spread east and south of town. Nearly all were innovators, looking for space and time to experiment with methods of producing new varieties of seeds, plants and produce. As with all farming, it was hard, dirty work, but the fruits of their labors were recognized in Carlsbad's emergence as the flower and avocado growing capital of the western world.

Sam Thompson planted Carlsbad's first grove of avocado trees in 1916. Two years later, the former Orange County nurseryman moved his trees west to eight acres on Highland Drive where he could experiment to develop new strains of the smooth creamy fruit.

He was followed in 1920 by E. G. Litchfield, who planted a three-acre grove along the north shore of Agua Hedionda lagoon. Litchfield's previous agricultural experience had been as a Canadian wheat grower, and he approached avocado growing as an opportunity to test his theories on efficient agricultural management. Claiming that "one man can care for a small avocado grove if he works eight hours a day and has the right irrigation system," Litchfield put his words to action with the help of overhead sprinklers and an occasional employee. Before long, he built a handsome Spanish-style home adjoining the grove that became a symbol of his success and a community showplace.

By 1923, L. C. Alles and A. W. Theissinger also had planted avocado groves in Carlsbad. Alles preceded his planting with ten years of study which led him to concur with Litchfield on the value of overhead sprinklers. He planted seedlings just a block from the Carlsbad elementary school, to serve as a windbreak for a twenty-six-acre grove that was within walking distance of the town's business district. Theissinger had come to Carlsbad for his health in 1921, following a career as a jeweler in Los Angeles. Undaunted by his lack of farming experience, he put all his faith in watering and fertilizer. He planted 250 avocado seeds on land overlooking Buena Vista lagoon and produced 70 specimens of Fuerte and Dickinson avocados. Although he spent an estimated \$1,500 per acre for barnyard manure, it proved to be a valid investment; four years after his initial planting, his grove gained recognition as the most financially successful in the county.

It was Thompson who recognized the opportunities to institutionalize the avocado industry in 1923. His initial proposal for a growers' club attracted thirteen charter members, but within a year, the roll call of the Carlsbad Avocado Club had grown to ninety-two names. In order to encourage awareness of their exotic product, one of the club's first projects was the organization of a community celebration in its honor. *Avocado Days* featured samples of avocado sandwiches, avocado cake and avocado ice cream, as well as avocados, plain and unadulterated as they were picked and ripened from the trees. With Thompson furnishing a major portion of the exhibits, serving in the food booths and acting as a one-man information service, the event's success led to its unanimous acceptance as a Carlsbad tradition—and the only way to spend the first Saturday in October.

Although there may have been some dubious tasters at the first Avocado Days, the initial batch of ice cream that began with the smashing of 250 avocados was an instant hit. Scaled-down recipes of it and other delicacies were soon in demand. Two years later, when the event was expanded to include the semiannual meeting of the California Avocado Association, nearly 5,000 visitors swarmed through the simple street fair. A news item reporting that Thompson, as usual, "talked himself hoarse by answering all manner of questions" indicates the club's successful achievement of its goal.

With peak plantings between 1935 and 1940, Carlsbad became the center of the Southern California avocado industry in 1948. By that time, the qualities that had made the town so healthy for avocados had been recognized for their benefits for human existence, too, and the demand for residential land soon was taking its toll in rising production costs and lower water quality. As the land became more expensive, increased pumping lowered the water table in San Luis Rey, making the water saltier and less than beneficial for agricultural purposes.

In addition, marketing problems also were surfacing. The public that once needed to be coaxed to even try an "alligator pear" (the name coined for extra appeal), now seemed to be demanding fruit with softer skins, sweeter taste, deeper color, or a longer season. Although Thompson and others had developed several new strains of avocados, consumers' jaded palates appeared to be affecting avocado sales throughout the county.

By 1951 many growers opted to quit while they were still ahead, leaving their groves to wither in the sun. But the land was still good and there was sufficient water for less thirsty crops, so while some trees were destined to provide shade for new back yards, others were removed to make room for new agricultural purposes.

Gladioli growers Clint and Elmer Pedley took over an abandoned avocado grove to experiment with seeds of a rare South African plant, the *Strealtitza reginae*, more commonly known as bird of paradise. Clint Pedley had received some "bird" seeds in 1934 as partial payment of an old debt, and his brother had obtained additional plants from Kate Sessions, San Diego's pioneer horticulturist. The Pedleys' hope of developing a strain which could be grown commercially was finally fulfilled in 1951, when their greenhouse specimens were ready to be planted in an old avocado grove on Magnolia Avenue.

When questioned by a San Diego news reporter, Elmer Pedley stated that since avocados could "no longer be raised with city water," he was going to concentrate on the exotic orange and blue flowers which resemble a bird in flight. The blooms were not an instant commercial success, but as Clint Pedley demonstrated their brilliant color and adaptability in flower arrangements, the demand slowly grew. Donald Briggs was another Carlsbad grower who recognized the potential in the new flower, and he planted the tough broad-leafed clumps on land overlooking the east end of Agua Hedionda lagoon. He and the Pedleys formed a company, California Birds, to plant, cut and ship their blooms all over the country. Local recognition of their product came shortly after Carlsbad was incorporated in 1952, and the bird of paradise was adopted as the official city flower.

After the initial success of the Carlsbad "bird," continued hybridizing improved their strength and durability for the cut-flower market. The product was further improved with a translucent cap which could be slipped over buds ripening in the field. The caps enable the blooms to open into a see-through bag, protecting them from the weather and shielding them from the ravages of their winged counterparts.

Up until 1972, bird of paradise fields covered the hillside west of Sunnyhill Drive to Agua Hedionda lagoon, but with the completion of the land cycle from plants to people, only the Magnolia Avenue field, where the Pedleys planted their first "flock," remains. To the east of it, on the corner of Valley Street, is another example of Elmer Pedley's foresight, a pumice rock house, whose volcanic ash composition provides perfect insulation for the energy-conscious generation now living there.

The gladioli once grown by the Pedleys initially were brought to Carlsbad in 1921 by Luther Gage, a nurseryman from Montebello, near Los Angeles. After planting five acres of freesias and winter glads for the Los Angeles flower market, he turned to development of a new strain of ranunculus, anemones and freesias bulbs which were patented under the Tecolote label. The name came from the flocks of ground owls that shared his property at the corner of Tamarack Avenue and Fourth Street.

The floral blankets of brilliant color that covered the hills overlooking the ocean in south Carlsbad during the 1970s were the result of Gage's bulb development. They were descendants of Gage's original bulbs, and were planted for propagation and left in the ground through their full blooming season, adding their incredible hues to the freeway landscape. Recent land cost escalations have threatened the future of this agricultural operation.

Luther Gage lost no time in becoming involved in his new community. Immediately after R. G. Chase's charter presidency of the Chamber of Commerce, Gage was elected to lead the civic group in 1924. He also served as director of the Carlsbad Mutual Water Company and president of the Oceanside Rotary Club. After his marriage to Olive Carey in 1934, Gage built the spacious adobe home on the northeast corner of Lincoln Street and Oak Avenue that is now the centerpiece of the Monterey Condominiums.

Harry Bailey followed Gage to Carlsbad from Montebello in 1923. Besides freesias, lilies, anemones and ranunculus, the former nurseryman also planted a third of an acre in ferns to produce seeds for shipment to nurseries in Florida. By 1927 he was harvesting 1,000 pounds of the bullet-shaped pods which dotted the fern branches and leaves, and selling them for five dollars per pound.

Poinsettias, another plant that once brightened the coastal scene with their Christmas blooms, were brought to the area in 1923 by Paul Ecke. The veteran Los Angeles nurseryman moved his growing operation to Encinitas, and his red-leaved plants soon covered acres of land north to Agua Hedionda lagoon. For nearly forty years, field-grown poinsettias were harvested in spring and shipped to greenhouses east of the Mississippi where they were used as cuttings to produce plants for the holiday season. In 1963 the festive plants began to disappear from the coastal fields to be gradually replaced by crops of tomatoes and beans. Abandoning the outdoor fields, Ecke now concentrates on supplying greenhouse-grown cuttings to wholesale-plant dealers all over the world. His ranch still produces a Christmas crop of blooming poinsettias and hydrangeas for the retail florist trade in California, Arizona and Mexico. Paul Ecke Jr., who now heads the family business, also has continued his father's experimentation and development of improved strains of poinsettias.

Perhaps the most dedicated horticulturist to come to Carlsbad was E. P. Zimmerman, who arrived in 1924. He was a native of Germany and he had searched for fifteen years to find a frost-free, humid environment in which to breed clivias. He was a third-generation nurseryman whose plant stock was descended from the seeds of a specimen grown in the English conservatory of Lady Clive, the Duchess of Northumberland. Zimmerman's grandfather had obtained the seeds after hearing explorers and missionaries describe the bell-shaped blooms as "pools of gold" seen in the dark shade of cork oaks along the Fish River in South Africa. Zimmerman had brought the mother plants produced by his grandfather's seeds to the United States in 1911, in order to compare them with the new strains which he hoped to develop.

Once moved to Carlsbad, the seedlings were sheltered in long lath houses. They took a year to ripen and four or five more years to produce the golden blooms of the original species. Zimmerman patiently waited, hybridized and planted, and waited some more, before successfully producing blossoms that ranged from white to yellow, orange and red. Four more plant generations were then required before Zimmerman could be sure of the stability of his new clivia varieties.

At one time, Zimmerman had over 30,000 clivia plants, some with as many as thirty blooms on a single stalk. His greenhouses were the mecca for horticulturists from all over the world, but he tended to downplay the skills that had brought him such spectacular success; his main advice for growing the plant that was the heart of his life's work was to "leave it alone as much as possible."

Zimmerman also produced the highest quality of gladioli and other bulb products for the Los Angeles flower market. His wife Minnie was partial to the white and pink clusters of watsonias which he cross pollinated for fourteen years to produce twenty-five new color strains, ranging from red to lilac.

Japanese vegetable growers also came to Carlsbad just after World War I. Listed in the San Diego City and County Directory for 1920 are names such as S. Kawamauri, R. Sagura, T. Sakema and Roy Tokido. Although they were prevented from owning their own land by the 1850 federal Exclusion Act, long-time Carlsbad residents recall poultry, grain and winter vegetables farmed by the Japanese on leased land. A succession of aphid plagues and difficulties in obtaining water finally forced them to move on. After repeal of the discriminatory legislation that existed prior to World War II, many Japanese moved back to Carlsbad to grow carnations and tomatoes.

Even with the availability of water, farm life in the 1920s was hard and parents were dependent on their children for help in the fields and at home. According to Marjorie Frazee Mieceke, there was precious little playtime after school, and she was frequently left at home in charge of chores and her three younger brothers. Frank Frazee's family lived in a three-room tar-paper house and farmed dry beans on leased land east of El Camino Real, outside of the Carlsbad Mutual Water Company's Service area. Frazee also grew cucumbers on the slope west of Highland Drive near Elm Avenue and supplied milk to the growing number of "downtown residents whose relatively urbanized situation prevented them from keeping a cow of their own.

One of the hazards of their simple life was realized on Sunday in June of 1924 while Frank Frazee and his wife harvested their cucumber crop and their children remained at home. The bean harvest had been bagged and stacked behind the house, awaiting delivery to its purchaser the next day. Nine-year-old Marjorie was instructed to wash the clothes, sweep the house and bring in the cows, but, as she later has recalled, it was such a beautiful balmy day that her duties were delayed until the middle of the afternoon.

The laundry tub of water had been on the kerosene stove for only a few minutes before the young housekeeper noticed wisps of smoke beginning to curl from the tarpaper sheathing behind it. With the household's only water supply in barrels, and no hose to turn on the spreading fire, Marjorie first tried to smother it with a blanket. When that didn't help she attempted to tear away the tarpaper that surrounded the burn, but she soon saw that the situation was out of control. With the help of her three young brothers, age three to seven, she began moving furniture out of the house. Taking things in order of their importance, the children started with their father's papers, their Aunt Edna's sewing machine and the family Victrola. Next came the beds and as many clothes and dishes they could gather before the house was engulfed in flames.

"We put everything upwind from the house and yelled for help," Marjorie Mieceke remembers, "but there was no one to hear us. We watched the fire burn for a while and then we said, 'Goodbye, house' and started off to tell our parents what had happened.

By the time the children had walked two miles to the cucumber field, it was getting dark and they were tired. They also were very reluctant to break the bad news to their parents. Crawling into the family's Model T truck, they were sound asleep when the Frazees came in from the fields and the events of the day finally had to be shared. The family drove home, only to find that the wind had shifted, and everything including the bean crop and the items that had been so laboriously removed from the house had been destroyed.

The only thing left to do was to drive on to a friend's home where they stayed the night. The next day, as other friends rallied around with donations of food and clothing, the Frazees moved into the abandoned Calavera School house, where they lived until a new home and farmland could be leased in the San Luis Rey Valley.

Living so close to the soil was not in the scheme of things for a new breed of gentlemen farmers who came to Carlsbad in the late 1920s and early thirties. They were weekend refugees from the Hollywood film industry who bought groves and farmlands for investment as well as diversion. But they were serious about maintaining their land's production and eagerly sought advice from their neighbors.



Staff photo/Mike Goodman

EUCALYPTUS TREE TO BE CUT DOWN

The eucalyptus trees at Hosp Grove aren't the only trees Kay Christiansen would like to see saved from development. Christiansen, left, stands beside a 60-foot tall torrey pine which was planted not long before she moved here with her family in 1926. The tree stands behind Christiansen's real estate office on Carlsbad Boulevard and will be cleared to make room for a hotel parking lot. "It's a magnificent tree and I'm just heart sick," Christiansen said. "I talked to the Coastal Commission and they said if it's on private property, they can't do anything about it." The torrey pine was a gift from Kate Sessions, who was responsible for much of the flora that landscapes Balboa Park, to Mr. and Mrs. Mark Koffin early in the century. The Koffin's Carlsbad home was leveled last month to make way for a new hotel. "We're losing so much to development and, well, sometimes parking lots aren't so important," Christiansen said.



Doug Duncanson of the city's parks department displays cone from bunya bunya tree in background. Staff photo/Mike Goodman

Holiday Park pine tree drops cones as big as bowling balls

CARLSBAD JOURNAL 8-16-82

By Barbara Barnhill
Staff Writer

Watch Out — The bunya bunya will beanya beanya. Warning signs are going up at the very south end of Holiday Park to beware the bunya buntas. It's time once again for the tall Australian pine tree to drop its cones.

When a 60-foot tree lets loose of its cones, about the size of bowling balls, it can be dangerous to kids and dogs and other living things, says Doug Duncanson of the Parks and Recreation Department. In Riverside, where there are lots of bunya buntas and consequently lots of cones, they are calling this The Attack of the Killer Pine Cones.

Although it's not exactly red alert in Carlsbad, Duncanson points out cones are falling here as well and picnickers will be warned to stand clear. Signs are now being painted and should be up within the next two weeks, he said.

The bunya bunya is an original part of the park. Falling fruit occurs only about once in every three to five years and fortunately this year, there are only about five to six cones with drop potential.

Bunya bunya cones look like an overgrown mutant green pineapple, complete with pricklers. Peeled like an artichoke, it tastes and smells like wet sawdust.

Still, the seeds are supposed to be good when roasted and salted. In Australia and Singapore they are considered delicacies. Indians reportedly have secret recipes which render the cone edible and even delicious.

This is the only bunya bunya on city property, Duncanson said, although there are probably several scattered throughout the older neighborhoods in town. In planting the original tree, town fathers wanted to present a variety of species to increase public awareness.

As the giant pine cones crash through the branches on their way to the ground, it would seem the bunya bunya is doing its job.

Old pine to be removed from Holiday Park

By Terry Snoeyenbos
Staff Writer

A tall old torrey pine near Holiday Park will be removed soon to make way for street improvements being done on Eureka Place.

"We tried as best we could to save that tree, but we couldn't — it's going to have to go," said Project Manager Al Virgilio, of the city's Engineering Department.

The \$296,529 in improvements include widening streets around the park; adding parking spaces, street lights, curbs, gutters and sidewalks; solving drainage problems; and eliminating traffic hazards at intersections around the park.

Virgilio investigated ways to save the pine after concerned residents and parks Superintendent Doug Duncanson asked that plans for Eureka Place be modified to accommodate the tree.

One option considered — running the sidewalk around the tree — would require

another 15 feet of easements from and reimbursement to the property owners, Virgilio said.

Moving improvements west to avoid the tree would require shaving off a good-sized chunk — about 60 feet — of Holiday Park and removing other trees there, he pointed out. While the city will have to remove a few trees in the park to make room for improvements, the number has been kept to a minimum, Virgilio said.

"All we've been able to do, we've done." Decreasing the size of the park to save one tree just wasn't an acceptable solution. "That park is probably the most highly used park in the city," Virgilio said. "It's one of the few serving the inner city, where park space is at a premium."

The city has made plan adjustments in order to save other trees around the park, he said. "I personally realigned the storm drain to avoid cutting down three major eucalyptus trees," Virgilio said.

Residents in the area have also questioned the wisdom of moving all the utility poles on Eureka to accommodate improvements instead of putting utility lines underground.

The cost of undergrounding utilities "is prohibitively expensive," Virgilio explained, especially for such a short stretch of road. Putting utilities underground costs about seven times more than moving poles over. While the San Diego Gas and Electric Company contributes to city funds for undergrounding lines, the city doesn't have much in its coffers now for such projects. The city generally uses those funds for undergrounding major stretches, according to Virgilio.

"We would love to underground everything if we had the money to do it," he said.

Street and other improvements around Holiday Park are expected to be completed in late April or early May.



Trees #93, 95 & 96



Staff photo/Jim Grant

Kelly Elementary School students join in the dedication of "Gramps," a 100-year-old oak tree, at the Carlsbad Airport Center.

'GRAMPS'

\$8.00

Giant oak tree dedicated to students

By Kathryn Fenick-Horton
Staff Writer

It was Anahario (wife of Grey Owl) who once said "Any interference with nature is damnable. Not only nature, but the people will suffer."

Dean Greenberg, a Carlsbad developer, took the quote to heart.

Greenberg, developer of the 330-acre Carlsbad Airport Center located adjacent to Palomar Airport, said he could not live with a guilty conscience for killing natural historical wonders in Carlsbad. So last year, rather

than clearing oak trees to make way for an industrial project, Greenberg and his ex-partner, Don Cook, doled out \$500,000 to transplant 43 oak trees.

Thursday, Greenberg dedicated the largest tree of the bunch, known as "Gramps," to the students of Carlsbad. The dedication ceremony was held beneath the tree.

Dedicating the tree to the students of Carlsbad is symbolic, Greenberg said.

"I would like to see the children of Carlsbad grow and flourish the

same way the tree has," he said.

Students from two third grade classes at Kelly Elementary School were at the ceremony on behalf of all the students in the district. The children read stories, recited poetry and made scientific speeches all relating to the enormous oak.

Gramps, which can be found "commanding" the intersection of Camino Vida Roble and Palomar Airport Road, is 100 years old, Greenberg said, and is the largest oak ever to be transplanted. Gramps weighs about 90 tons, stands 70 feet high and the trunk measures 12 feet around.

Valley Crest Co. of San Juan Capistrano used two 100-ton cranes to transplant the trees from a nearby spot to their new location along Palomar Airport Road.

Greenberg and Cook's effort may go a long way toward giving developers a better name. "Devel-

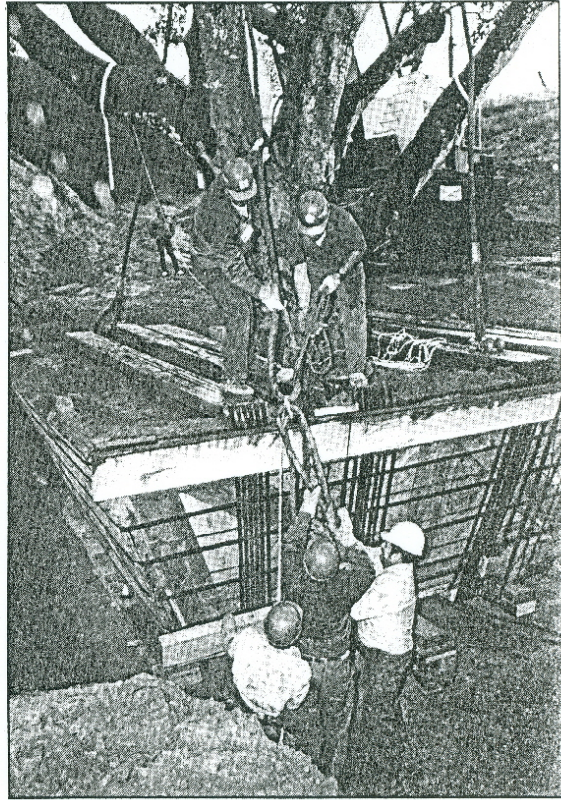
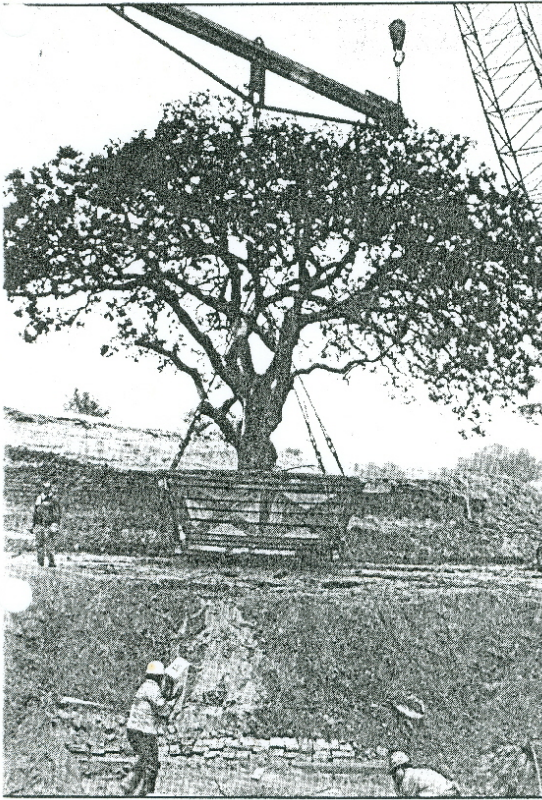
opers have a bad reputation and it's not always without reason," Greenberg said. "If you really pay attention to what you're doing, it's amazing what you can preserve."

"The problem is that many planners don't take the time to learn the site before they make their plans."

Greenberg and Cook moved the trees in part to start an important trend in surrounding Carlsbad developments, Greenberg said. There was no community outcry to force the developers to save the oak trees.

Cook has since started his own business to consult developers about environmental considerations before building.

The developers believe Gramps is also a symbol of Carlsbad development. "Both have grown in shape and pride — which is the kind of attention it takes to have a melding of environment and development," Greenberg said.



CENTURY-OLD OAK TREE TAKES A TRIP

Work crews secure cables around a 100-ton oak tree as they prepare to lift it out of the ground with two large cranes at the Aviara development Monday. The 100-year-old tree will eventually be replanted on the site of the new elementary school at the intersection of Alga and Ambrosia roads. In all, 19 oak and eucalyptus trees were relo-

cated and stored as part of a tree preservation program by Hillman Properties, developers of the resort and residential community. Grading is now under way on the project's first phase, which includes construction of the school and a two-mile extension of Alga Road.



Staff Photo / Scott Varley

Carlsbad residents protest the plan to remove a giant eucalyptus tree on Oak Avenue.

Residents ask city to spare tree

By Mark Larabee
Staff Writer

CARLSBAD — Residents and business owners are rallying around a giant eucalyptus on Oak Avenue, which is scheduled to be cut down to make room for sidewalk and street improvements.

The City Council will be asked tonight to approve a contract to construct a sidewalk, curb and gutter on the north side of Oak Avenue, a city report on the issue states.

The \$138,417 project is listed on the council's consent calendar, a list of routine business items that are usually approved in a single motion.

A small group of Carlsbad residents gathered around the tree Monday morning to protest the plan. They said the tree should be spared in the interest of the environment and the character of downtown Carlsbad.

"The city has taken out so many trees in the past few years for so-called improvements," said Katherine Occhiogrosso, owner of Katherine's Hair and Nails on nearby Roosevelt Street. "We don't think these trees need any improvement."

Occhiogrosso said the city repaved a nearby alley last year but spared the tree. It should also be spared for the sidewalk, she said.

"It'll be much easier to walk around than to drive around," she said.

Ed King, a Laguna Drive resident, admired the huge tree that towers far above the power poles. It would take at least three people holding hands to encircle its base. King estimated that the tree is about 100 years old.

"Isn't that a beauty," King said. "I mean, gee whiz, that didn't grow overnight."

Sue Robinson, owner of The Lion and the Lamb on State Street, said she hopes the City Council will prevent workers from cutting the tree down.

"We're just trying to get them to do something a little more creative than cutting the

► See Tree, Page B-3

"There's simply no other way to efficiently design a safe intersection without the removal of the tree."

on Page B-1

tree down," she said. "Plowing through it seems to be the easiest solution."

John Cahill, municipal projects manager for Carlsbad, said the issue is one of safety, nothing more.

"It's not just the sidewalk," he said. "The tree is directly in the path of the travel lanes and the alley."

As mitigation, Cahill said several new but smaller trees will be planted along Oak Avenue.

Save tree on Oak Avenue

BLACK-CITIZEN - 7-2-91

In Carlsbad, what tree is Oak Avenue famous for?

No, not an oak, but a eucalyptus. How many species of eucalyptus trees are there? A former city horticulturist said about 700.

How many trees of this type are there in Carlsbad? I'll give you a helpful hint. Purportedly more than 14,000 in Hosp Grove. There's another smaller grove opposite Rancho Carlsbad Mobile Home Park. There are numerous other small clusters of these trees throughout the city. I would guess there are about 20,000 trees of this class in the city, and I may be thousands short.

Where is the biggest eucalyptus tree in the city? Is it among the 14,000 trees in Hosp Grove? Across the street from Rancho Carlsbad? On Tamarack, north side, east of Jefferson? On Grand east of Harding? Along Highland Avenue? On the north side of Holiday Park? On Oak Avenue between State and Roosevelt? Or none of the above?

There are no really big trees to my knowledge in Hosp Grove. The largest I have seen while wandering through the grove are less than 3 feet in diameter, and these are very few. Ditto for the grove across the street from Rancho Carlsbad. There are some larger than 3 feet in diameter south of Elm Avenue on Highland. On the north side of Holiday Park on Pine there are several huge trees. These are monsters. The trunk of one of these trees in particular reminds me of a small kauri tree that grows in New Zealand.



GIRARD ANEAR

The granddaddy of all the trees in town that I have seen is the giant across the street from the Boys & Girls Club of Carlsbad on Oak Avenue.

The Hosp Grove trees are nearly 90 years old. The other larger trees have to be about the same age as my expert authority Betty Wollrich states. The difference in size is primarily the availability of water.

Formerly on Oak Avenue there were two majestic trees. About six months ago, the slightly smaller tree was cut down. On inquiry, I was informed the tree was dying, about two-thirds dead, and had to be removed for safety purposes.

Tonight on the Carlsbad City Council's consent calendar, Item No. 5 "Oak Avenue Street Improvement," staff is recommending the removal of this remaining tree because it interferes with the field of vision of drivers coming out of the alley adjacent to this 90-year-old tree.

There's a better solution to this

problem if this tree is still healthy.

This north-south alley is intersected by an alley starting in the middle of the block of State Street between Elm and Oak avenues. South of the "T" intersection are only a couple of houses or commercial establishments that have access to the alley. The southern end of this alley could be blocked off. This would still allow traffic to enter and exit this area from either State Street or the north end of the alley off Elm Avenue. Both distances are very short on fully improved alleys. There would be no effect on pedestrian traffic.

Another alternative to consider would be to have northbound one-way traffic only in the alley.

I have admired and appreciated large trees all over the world: California's redwoods, pine trees, eucalyptus, pepper trees (Camp Pendleton ranch house); New Zealand's kauri; Hawaii's banyan; Mexico's tule (related to the cypress family).

Certainly, we should make every effort to preserve this venerable giant eucalyptus. Its surroundings could be beautified with the proposed sidewalk and street improvements, as was done with the tree on Grand Avenue near Harding Street.

When this is done, this tree should be displayed as a tourist attraction, not ignominiously cut into firewood.

Mayor "Buddy" Lewis frequently states, "We welcome your input. All the council's phone numbers are in the book."

Anear is a resident of Carlsbad.

Wednesday, July 23, 1988

CARLEISAD JOURNAL

Residents rally to save old eucalyptus tree

By Doug Desjardins
Staff Writer

City engineers last night were given three weeks to revise a road improvement project to avoid knocking down a 100-year-old eucalyptus tree.

Urged on by a half-dozen residents who spoke in defense of the tree, the City Council voted 5-0 to postpone the street improvement project for three weeks. Councilman Eric Larson said he wanted engineers to search for a way to work around the massive tree on Oak Avenue and return with a report on July 23.

"My No. 1 concern with this project is traffic safety," said Larson. "But at the same time, this tree has tremendous significance to the downtown area and I want to make sure there is no other alternative if this is to be torn down."

Municipal projects director John Cahill said the improvement project would repave Oak Avenue between Roosevelt and Tyler streets and add a curb and sidewalks on the north side of the street. He said the project would improve the safety of pedestrians, principally children.

City engineers said the massive tree, which has an estimated trunk diameter of 13 feet, would block the view of traffic near an alley and interfere with a proposed drainage plan.

Residents who spoke against



Staff photo/Meri Boyles

Several residents want to save this landmark tree from destruction.

razing the tree, which some estimated to be up to 110 years old, said alternate drainage plans could be devised and that the alley it abuts could be blocked off.

"My property abuts that alley and on any given day, about the only thing that goes through there is a dump truck," said Richard Medama.

Carlsbad tree gets reprieve

By Mark Larabee
Staff Writer

CARLSBAD — City Council members Tuesday granted a stay of execution to a large eucalyptus tree in downtown Carlsbad.

The tree was slated to be cut down to accommodate street, drainage and sidewalk improvements to Oak Avenue, which prompted area residents to protest the construction plans.

Council members agreed with residents, voting 5-0 to postpone approval of the construction project until other solutions could be checked out.

Some ideas that were discussed included closing the entrance to the Tyler Street Alley on the north side of Oak Avenue, where the tree is located, or making the alley a one-way street.

Residents presented their case to the council Tuesday night. Five

people spoke in favor of keeping the tree alive.

"I would like to have this tree speak for itself," said Kay Christiansen, who showed three slides of the giant tree. "Look at the tree and see how beautifully it is shaped."

Christiansen, a member of the city's historical society, said the trees downtown are an important part of the city's history.

► See Tree, Page B-5

Tree

► From Page B-1

"We have changed the name of Elm Avenue to Carlsbad Village Drive and now we're starting to crucify one of the most important pieces of art in our village," she said. "We are quite concerned with this kind of destruction in Carlsbad. We wish to have history remain."

But city planners say the tree is a safety hazard for pedestrians and for drivers.

Bob Johnson, the city's traffic engineer, said the tree blocks the view east of the roadway for cars coming out of the alley. Cars would have to pull out into traffic to see around the tree, he said.

"Your line of sight is totally blocked by the trunk of this eucalyptus tree," Johnson said.

But Richard Madama, who said he owns the adjacent property, said only two cars a day use the small, short alley. A retired Los Angeles police officer, Madama said he sees no traffic hazard at the intersection.

Councilman Eric Larson, who made the motion to postpone the vote, said his first concern is safety.

The tree is directly across the street from the Carlsbad Boys &

Eucalyptus tree spared in Carlsbad

BLADE-CITIZEN 7-24-91

By Mark Larabee
Staff Writer

8.25

CARLSBAD — A huge eucalyptus tree on Oak Avenue in downtown Carlsbad will not be cut down, the City Council ruled Tuesday.

The tree, which sits near the Tyler Street alley between State and Roosevelt streets, was scheduled to be taken out to accommodate street, drainage and sidewalk improvements to Oak Avenue across the street from the Carlsbad Boys & Girls Club.

Earlier this month, downtown

residents and business owners protested plans to cut down the tree, prompting the City Council to delay a scheduled approval of the project until the matter could be studied.

At the recommendation of staff members, the City Council on Tuesday unanimously called for a redesign of the project that would save the tree.

Robert Bichowsky of Butler's Mill Inc., a San Diego tree specialist hired by the city to inspect the tree and its roots, said the tree is

➤ See Tree, Page B-3

safely accommodate traffic and bicycles. The project also will improve drainage problems on Oak Street. City Engineer Lloyd Hubbs said that although saving the tree would mean a 20 percent reduction in drainage capacity on the street, drainage there still would be improved.

Although bids for the project already had been submitted, the city again will advertise the project to accommodate the change in design.

Downtown residents did not speak at the meeting Tuesday, although Bichowsky praised the city for its action.

"I commend the city for wanting to protect the tree," he said. "It certainly is a beautiful specimen of a tree."

From Page B-1: The tree is very healthy and should be saved. "I was amazed to find that the roots are much, much deeper than they are on 95 percent of the trees I look at," he said. "If any tree is going to survive, this will be the one to do it."

The news was welcomed by Councilwoman Ann Kulchin. "You've made my night," she said. "I think this eucalyptus is very fortunate it happened to be in Carlsbad."

To accommodate the tree, the sidewalk will be built around the front, narrowing the street by four feet. City Traffic Engineer Bob Johnson said the street would still

Carlsbad men delay tree removal

BLADE-CITIZEN 10-15-92



Staff Photo / Bill Wochter

Carlsbad residents blocked the removal of these ficus trees on Jefferson

By Gary Wirth
Staff Writer

CARLSBAD — A city crew that had planned to cut down two ficus trees was called off the job Wednesday after being confronted by curious residents.

Dr. Robert Duff said he was having breakfast at Kahala Cafe at Carlsbad Village Drive and Jefferson Street when he saw the crew attempting the trees and realized the workers were preparing to cut them down.

Duff and Kahala Cafe owner Allan Warrmaker asked the workers why they were cutting down the trees, and the crew answered that the trees' roots were damaging the sidewalk.

The two men said they argued that trees are more beautiful than sidewalks. Duff said he wanted to know if Mayor Ned Lewis and City Manager Ray Peletsch had approved of the job.

Doug Duncanson, supervisor for the city Parks and Recreation Department, said he and staff members from the Maintenance Department made the decision to remove the trees, but he has agreed to stop the job and check with higher city officials for a decision. Carlsbad residents take their trees seri-

ously. Last year, the community rallied to save a giant candelabra tree on Oak Avenue that had been scheduled to be felled to make way for a sidewalk and street improvements.

Following a protest at the tree and some public discussion, the City Council unanimously voted to spare it and remove the sidewalk. The Carlsbad Historic Preservation Commission since has sought to designate several city trees as historic points of interest to save them.

Duncanson said the two trees scheduled to be cut down this week probably are 20 years old.

"They've basically outgrown their useful life," Duncanson said, explaining that the city has repaired the sidewalks three times, at a cost of \$5,000 for each job, during the past eight years because of damage from the roots.

"We'll review it through the Parks and Recreation director and the city manager's office, and if their decision is to do concrete repairs, we'll do that," Duncanson said.

A decision on the trees' fate is expected by the end of the week, he said.

A citywide study has identified about 20

► See Trees, Page B-2

TREES #47

Trees

► From Page B-1

large trees in downtown Carlsbad that may be cut down within the next 10 years because of damage their roots are causing to sidewalks, he said.

The trees across the street from the cafe are on the west side of the Good Shepherd Assembly of God Church. Its bookkeeper, Carol Rolla, said the church asked the city to remove the trees because

leaves are damaging the building's roof and a new air-conditioning unit.

Warrmaker, the Kahala Cafe owner, said shade from the trees helps keep the church cool, so the air conditioner would have to work that much harder without the trees. And he said he does not agree that the sidewalks are more important than the large trees.

"They're going to take out two trees because they happen to make the sidewalk a little bumpy," he said. "Well, that's what trees do. Big deal. It adds to the charm of the village."

Tree #47

NOTES & QUOTES

Biking across America at age 69

A group of eight guys from all over the United States, and all older than me, led by 69-year-old



JOE MORROW

Joe Neumeister Sr. of Indianapolis will embark bright and early this morning on a bike ride across America, hoping to end up 3,400 miles

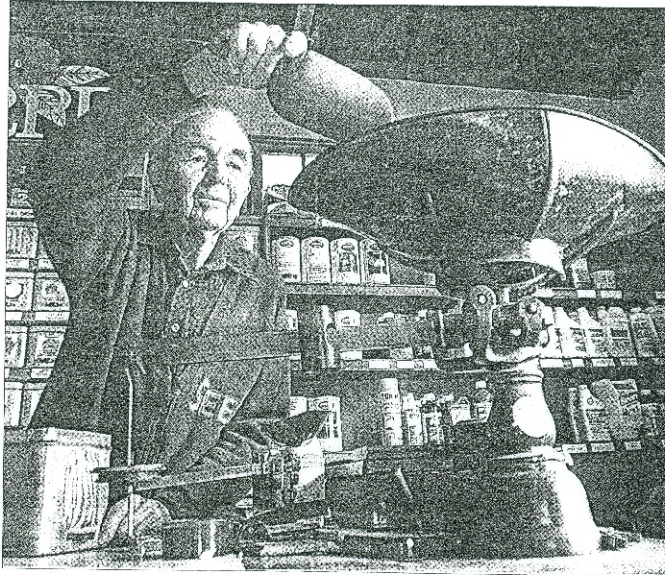
later in St. Augustine, Fla., by April 17.

Calling this trek "The 1999 Easy Rider Ride," Joe and his bikers will travel through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

Joe's daughter, Julie Hardin of Boca Raton, Fla., sent me the details on the adventure. The cyclists will be followed by a van with plenty of extra bike tires.

FAMILY AFFAIR Ocean-side soprano Kate Oberklaid, the winner in a recent La Jolla Symphony Young Artists Competition, will be featured in "Celebration of Songs" at 4

"At that time (1933) there were about 1,000 people in Carlsbad and 90 percent of them were farmers." — CHARLES LEDGERWOOD, Carlsbad resident



JAMIE SCOTT LYLE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Former Carlsbad Mayor Charles Ledgerwood pours string beans into a scale he bought 66 years ago.

Officials debate fluoride effects

TIM MAYER
and RANDY DOTINGA
STAFF WRITERS

ESCONDIDO — At least three City Council members oppose putting fluoride in the city's water supply, as their opposition appears certain to torpedo city plans to get a \$100,000 grant for fluoridation equipment.

"I look at (it's) a personal rights issue," said Councilwoman Marie Waldron. "If you want fluoride in your water, you can go out and buy tablets and add it to your water. I don't see we need to mass medicate everyone through our water system."

Waldron and Councilmen Keith Beier have asked the council to adopt an ordinance that would ban adding fluoride to the city's water supply. Councilman Jerry Kaufman said he will support them, but he also raised the prospect of ultimately putting the fluoride issue before voters.

► FLUORIDE, B

Carlsbad out to kill all the trees

GARY PIRO

In his children's book, "The Giving Tree," Shel Silverstein pays homage to trees and the way they benefit and enrich our lives. The story shows how trees are taken for granted and only appreciated after they are gone. This is a lesson that could well be heeded by the Carlsbad City Council.

Through a sequence of seemingly unrelated events over the past 10 years, many intelligent and well-meaning city officials have unwittingly turned Carlsbad into arguably the most tree-unfriendly community in the greater San Diego area.

The first city action (which ironically occurred about the time that the city changed the name of its main street from Elm to Carlsbad Village Drive) was to prohibit developers of new projects from installing any trees within the city road right of way — within 10 feet of a city curb.

It was followed by a requirement that anyone performing \$50,000 or more of improvements to their home be required to dedicate 30 feet of road right of way and pay for the widening of the road with curb, sidewalk and treeless parkways, and an aggressive program of tree removal wherever trees cause any damage to sidewalks, curbs or asphalt roadways.

The net result has delivered a tremendous blow to the character of Olde Carlsbad, that area

west of El Camino Real. Little by little, streets are being widened, trees are being removed, and lush landscapes are being replaced by monotonous suburban improvements.

Carlsbad is a case study of what can go wrong when a city governs itself with an excessive concern for liability and the financial bottom line. By being so obsessed with avoiding potential lawsuits, the city has completely missed the boat when it comes to maintaining the ambience that made Carlsbad a wonderful place to live. It is for this reason that the Citizens for the Preservation of Olde

Carlsbad has requested a hearing before the Carlsbad City Council tonight to hopefully turn around the steamship SS Urbanization.

From the time we first started designing cities, the connection between our roads and trees has been intertwined. In fact, there are more streets named after trees than any other topic, save for letters and numbers.

Modern planners are also arguing for the extensive use of trees along streets for practical reasons. For one, studies show that when all other street design factors are the same, a tree-shrouded street has fewer accidents than one without trees. County of San Diego Planning Director Gary Pryor has said that drivers on tree-lined streets slow down and are more cautious of obstacles and pedestrians.

There is also much new evidence regarding the benefits of

trees that far outweigh the penalties required for their maintenance. In his 1990 Reader's Digest article, "What Good Is a Tree," roving science editor Lowell Ponte points out that trees save water (an acre of maple trees puts 20,000 gallons of water into the air each day) and energy (shade from trees can save \$175 per year on air-conditioning).

Ponte, now a Carlsbad resident and nationally syndicated radio talk show host, says research indicates that a tree contributes more than \$270,000 in value to society over its lifetime. This includes providing oxygen, recycling water, regulating humidity, controlling air pollution, producing protein, providing shelter for wildlife, controlling erosion, reducing heat and fertilizing the soil.

Linda Romero, who works on the Urban Forest Program for the California Department of Forestry, says that recent studies show that trees may add as much as 20 percent to home values, which translates to property tax revenues. Romero also points out that cities like Bakersfield are aggressively embracing Global ReLeaf and Tree City, U.S.A. programs to attract Silicon Valley-type businesses. Formerly barren, Bakersfield's goal is to be covered 50 percent with trees.

And yet, Carlsbad has been ridding itself of its trees. To quote Henry David Thoreau: "Thank God they can't cut down the clouds!"

Gary Piro is a former county planning commissioner who lives in Carlsbad.

COMMUNITY FORUM



Arborist Mark Wisniewski looked over a Monterey pine tree on Pine Street in Carlsbad yesterday. He was hired to identify the 100 most notable trees in the city. Eduardo Contreras / Union-Tribune photos

By Agnes Roletti
STAFF WRITER

CARLSBAD — They don't have to be the oldest, the tallest or even the shadiest, but Mark Wisniewski is looking for the 100 most noteworthy trees in downtown Carlsbad.

The veteran arborist, wearing a safari vest and carrying a clipboard and various measuring devices, has spent the past couple of months pondering tree after tree with an eye that's as admiring as it is critical.

"I think the greatest challenge will be to limit the list to 100 trees," Wisniewski said. "There are just so many unique specimens."

Wisniewski was hired last year by the city's Historic Preservation Commission to identify 100 so-called "heritage trees." His task is similar to that of a historian hunting for the city's most notable buildings.

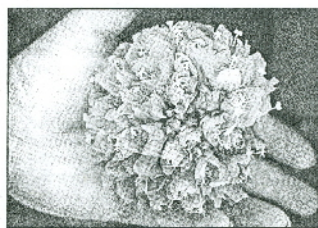
"We already have a guide to the city's historic man-made environment," said Geoff Armour, the city's assistant library director and a local history expert. "We thought it would be nice to do the same for the natural environment."

The list of heritage trees, from century-old towering pines to what is believed to be the area's sole olive tree, is expected to be used for educational as well as preservation purposes.

The commission would like to de-

Finding top 100 trees in Carlsbad a knotty task

Arborist hired to survey, list most unique in city



Mark Wisniewski held a bloom from a dombeya wallichii tree found yesterday on Jefferson Street in Carlsbad.

velop a brochure that would serve as a self-guided tour of the city's heritage trees.

The city also will use the list to compile a Community Forest Management Plan, a would-be bible on how to maintain trees that grow on public property.

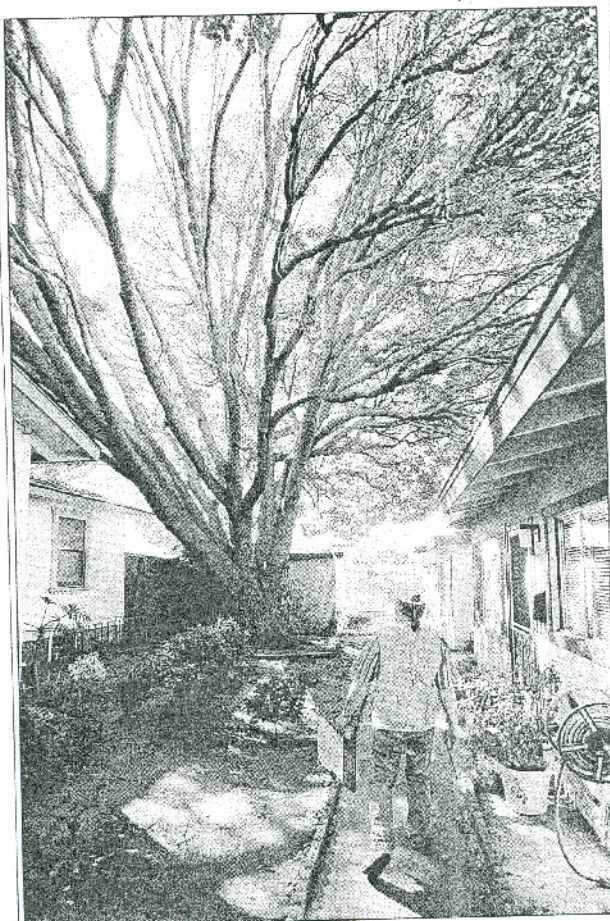
Preserving, rather than cutting down, old trees has recently become a hot issue in the city. In the past year, residents of Olde Carlsbad east of downtown have successfully protested city plans to uproot old trees to make way for street and sidewalk repairs.

A committee of Olde Carlsbad residents recommended that a list of heritage trees be drawn up to protect those trees.

Wisniewski's task is to survey trees in the downtown area, from Ocean Street east to Highland Avenue and Laguna Drive south to Chestnut Avenue. The commission would like to have a second survey done beyond those boundaries, Armour said.

Wisniewski has defined a heritage tree as any tree that has historical, cultural or horticultural significance. Beyond using his own expertise to choose heritage trees, Wisniewski is looking for residents who can share pertinent information about a tree worthy of heritage status.

SEE Carlsbad, Page 3



Mark Wisniewski walked underneath the canopy of a camphor tree behind a home in Carlsbad yesterday. He estimated that the tree is between 80 and 100 years old and said it is one of the best specimens of its kind in the city. Eduardo Contreras / Union-Tribune

► CARLSBAD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Search is on for top 100 trees throughout city

"Someone might know when a particularly noteworthy tree was planted, or who planted it or where the tree came from," he said. "That's information I would love to have."

In studying trees in and around downtown and the nearby historic barrio district, Wisniewski has learned much about the city's roots.

So far, with about three-quarters of his survey work done, Wisniewski has identified 40 varieties of trees downtown.

"That number surprised me," he said. "What it tells me is that the city's early settlers

didn't particularly appreciate the native vegetation and instead preferred new and exotic specimens.

"I think the diversity in tree varieties also mirrors a diversity among the people who settled Carlsbad, and indicates that they had an extreme interest in planting and propagating trees."

As the city developed, however, many of trees were removed to make way for widened roads and development.

"Something had to go and, unfortunately, it was the trees," he said. "That's not meant as a criticism. It's just the unfortunate result of development and growth."

Although the number of old trees has diminished over time, the overall number of trees in the city probably has increased, he said.

"We may have more trees in terms of physical numbers, but

"We have a guide to the city's historic man-made environment. . . . It would be nice to do the same for the natural environment."

Geoff Armour

not in the size and stature that the city enjoyed earlier this century," he said. "But there are still plenty of trees of significance around and that's what makes putting together this list so interesting."

Anyone interested in sharing information about a tree in the downtown area is asked to call Wisniewski at (760) 436-5338.

AROUND CARLSBAD

Twin Canary Island date palm trees rooted in history

They stand tall and proud. The twin Canary Island date palm trees at the entrance to the Monterey Condominiums that surround the historic 1924 Luther Gage residence in downtown Carlsbad.

The Luther Gage who helped develop the flower industry in Carlsbad in the early 1920s.

The Luther Gage who first introduced the bird-of-paradise to San Diego County.

The Luther Gage who was one of Carlsbad's pioneers.

The Luther Gage who planted the two Canary Island Date Palm trees on his property on Lincoln Street.

Those 70-foot trees, considerably taller than the normal height for their species, have been a landmark around the village for years.

Because of their size and age (somewhere between 70 and 90 years old), they have added to property values, with each tree estimated to be worth approximately \$25,000.

Their aesthetic value is priceless for the entire community, especially since they have been tagged as two of the 100 heritage trees in the village that are being identified and inventoried by Mark Wisniewski, the arborist hired by the city's Historic Preservation Commission.

Unfortunately, the majestic trees have had more than just nests of robins in their hair. One of the twins has had a nest of bees, and during a tree-trimming project in September, those bees attacked a worker who had to be hospitalized.

The Monterey Homeowners Association, which during the last several years opted for the removal of palms and pines and a two-story-high bird-of-paradise plant from the historical property, has legitimate financial and liability concerns, but instead of looking with an eye for preservation and instead of involving all the homeowners with the problem, held a special meeting and decided to remove the trees because killing the bees is a logis-

tical and financial burden.



BARBARA
BRILL

delay destruction.

Fortunately, one of the homeowners, Suzy Hockett, after discovering by accident the fate of the trees that were destined for the chain saw in late November, hired an attorney to

The former teacher has rallied support from many of the 30 homeowners in the complex, and she's contacted entomologists at the University of California, who explained that bees can be tranquilized during tree-trimming and that beekeepers often remove hives or swarms.

The fate of the two, tall matched trees is on hold, and Hockett and many of the homeowners aren't giving up.

Right now they are looking for individuals or organizations to adopt the trees.

They want to preserve and

nurture them for future generations.

So does the Historic Preservation Commission, which will discuss the two palm trees at its meeting, hopefully with the Carlsbad Historical Society in attendance, on Monday at 5:30

p.m. in city council chambers. The public is invited.

Barbara Brill, a North County Times columnist, is a freelance writer who has lived in Carlsbad since 1973. Contact: bb3ill@juno.com.



Hunting for historic trees in Carlsbad

■ Consultant surveys living 'heritage' in Olde Carlsbad Village

MICHAEL J. WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

CARLSBAD — A passion for trees, especially in the city's older northwest section, is kindling a citizen group's effort to identify and preserve trees held dear to the community.

To that end, the city Historic Preservation Commission is developing a "heritage" tree inventory and management plan for Olde Carlsbad Village.

"It's amazing how much energy you get around trees," said Assistant Library Director Geoff Armour, the city's administrative liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission. "It's a passion with people. When the city is getting ready to chop a tree down, people come out of the wood work."

The commission hired licensed landscaper and arborist Mark Wisniewski of La Costa to conduct the inventory and craft the plan. As he whittles his way through the inventory, Wisniewski said he welcomes any information residents may have shedding light on the significance of trees within the study area. He can be reached at (760) 436-5308 or by fax at (760) 436-3924.

"We're trying to identify trees that are unique and to find out a way to protect them," Wisniewski said. "That would be great if people called me or wrote me about specific trees. The information I can get from people and the community will be a great help."

Wisniewski's initial task is to identify 100 trees or stands of trees that meet the admittedly subjective "heritage" criteria within an area framed by Laguna Drive to the north, Highland Drive to the east, Chestnut Avenue to the south and Ocean Street along the coast.



"A heritage tree is one that is important to the community due to its historical, cultural or horticultural significance," Wisniewski said. "That's subjective, based on my evaluation of the trees, my knowledge of horticulture and my historical research."

Wisniewski said he has probably walked about two-thirds of the area under study. While he conducts his field work from public sidewalks, sidewalks and alleys, trees on private property that are highly visible to the public could be included in the inventory, he said.

"When I first started, I thought I'd probably find a lot of Torrey Pines and eucalyptus, but what I've found is a lot of variety," Wisniewski said. "I'm finding a lot more interesting trees than I anticipated when I did a drive

through to put the proposal together. One of the things that is surprising is the wide variety of species. A lot of them are not commonly used in landscaping, but are quite well suited for landscaping."

He said the trees he has examined to date range in uniqueness from the *euphorbia tirucalli* — a peculiar looking plant about six-feet tall that is commonly called a pencil tree because of the shape of its branches — to Canary Island date palms that are more than 70 feet tall.

One of the city's older trees may be a Moreton Bay fig located at Fidel's del Norte restaurant. Wisniewski said a plaque on the tree states that it is 85 years old, but there is no date on the plaque to indicate when the tree turned 85. A number of old, magnificent trees are lo-



Arborist and landscape architect Mark Wisniewski, left, commissioned by the city's Historic Preservation Commission, takes notes on a 42-foot-tall jacaranda tree from Brazil growing on the property of the Carlsbad Senior Center. The tree has a 53-foot spread. Above, Wisniewski uses a clinometer to determine the height of a tree.

Photos by BILL WECHTER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

cated on the grounds of the Army and Navy Academy, while Monterey cypresses still thrive along the railroad tracks, where historic pictures indicate they were present more than 100 years ago, Wisniewski said.

"What's surprising is that there are so few native trees," Wisniewski said. "So when you do find a California sycamore or a coast live oak, it is unique because of its existence. It's been fun and I've ended up talking to quite a few people interested in what we're doing out there."

Wisniewski said he hopes to be able to share at least part of the data with the commission by the end of this month.

Contact Michael J. Williams at (760) 901-4082 or mwilliams@nctimes.com.



Residents prevent removal of trees

MICHAEL J. WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

and BARBARA BRILL
FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

CARLSBAD — Protests from homeowners and tenants at a condominium complex prevented the removal Monday of two cherished 70-foot palms on the complex property for at least a day.

The delay gave the protesters a chance to present their case to the city's Historic Preservation Commission and the Carlsbad Historical Society on Monday evening. Residents at Mon-



JAMIE SCOTT LYTLE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Carlsbad resident Laurie Boone, city arborist Fred Burnell and city landscape architect and arborist Mark Wisniewski talk with Sgt. Larry Moore and Senior Officer Steve Foman of the Carlsbad Police Department about the fate of the two towering Canary Island Date Palms that may be cut down at the Gage historic site in Carlsbad.

► TREES, B-3

► TREES

Continued from B-1

City panel,
historical group to
send letters in
support of trees

terey Condominiums, 3080 Lincoln St., contend the trees are a valuable asset because of their size and locale on a historic site.

The homeowners' association board of directors wants them cut down to eliminate liability risks, a representative said. While acknowledging that the city has no legal jurisdiction over trees on private property, the commission and the society agreed to send letters stating their support for the trees to the homeowners' association's board of directors as well as various city committees.

"I think we should let people at the condominiums know

**'Limbs keep falling,
and if one hits a
person, we'd be
sued and have
nothing left.'**

— JACK FANCHER
Homeowners' association president

these trees are an asset to all of Carlsbad," said Commissioner Don Christiansen. "Anyone who sees them appreciates them."

The pair of Canary Island date palms are identified by arborist and landscaper Mark Wisniewski as historically and culturally significant in a study he is doing for the commission to identify and preserve trees that are important to the city's heritage.

The palms are located in

front of the home built in 1934 by Carlsbad pioneer and nurseryman Luther Gage, who introduced gladioli to the area, Wisniewski said. Gage may have planted them when he built the house or even earlier, Wisniewski said. He estimates each of the trees is worth at least \$24,500 on the wholesale market.

"As far as listing them as heritage trees, they are worthy of preservation because of their significance and value to the community as a whole," Wisniewski said. "As far as this species goes, I don't see any larger ones looming on the horizon both in terms of size and historic significance."

The complex's board of directors contends the trees pose liability risks because palm fronds could potentially fall and bees nests make it difficult for tree trimmers to get rid of the fronds. "Limbs keep falling, and if one hits a person, we'd be sued and have nothing left," said Jack Fancher, the association's president.

The residents opposing the tree removal said they were un-

aware of the board's decision. A contractor arrived Monday morning to cut down the trees while the condominiums were evacuated to spray for termites, said homeowner Laurie Boone, a resident since 1974.

When Boone, fellow resident Suzy Hockett and other residents saw what was about to happen, they notified the city. The police and Fred Burnell, a parks and recreation supervisor overseeing trees, responded and persuaded condo board representatives to postpone the action at least until the commission met Monday night.

Commission liaison Geoff Armour said the contractor has indicated that he couldn't return to do the job for a couple weeks, but the protesters remain on guard that the trees could be lost any day.

"Right now, we have a little stay of execution on these trees, but it's temporary," Boone said.

Contact Michael J. Williams at (760) 901-4082 or mwilliams@nctimes.com.

Logan Jenkins

Heritage tree lovers bark over finding no safe arbor



You want to know how you can tell when a SoCal city has arrived at the pinnacle of civilization?

The natives fight over trees, not from them.

On the coast, tree wars rage with special ferocity. Maybe that's because the lush landscape started from scratch.

Look at photographs of North County's coast in the 19th century. That's Baja California staring back. Hard scramble. A far cry from Quail Gardens.

God didn't make our shade trees. Pioneer horticulturalists did. Non-indigenous trees and plants are the plush exterior decorating that fueled the region's real-estate booms.

In its infancy, Del Mar took on the planting of trees as a holy mission reminiscent of Israel's national campaign.

Always beware of what you wish for. Del Mar is now home to hundreds of Torrey pines that, thanks to imported water, have grown to Godzilla proportions, threatening to blot out the sun and ocean.

Nevertheless, residents must obtain a city permit to cut down a Torrey pine or Monterey cypress. Just last year, a homeowner was fined more than \$30,000 for the untimely death of a pine on his property.

Many feel Del Mar eventually will have to release its ardent hug of heritage trees. Expect casualties, human and arboreal.

Carlsbad is a relative newcomer to the tree wars. Last year, the Olde Carlsbad neighborhood launched a campaign to protect its oldest trees as the city tried to build sidewalks and widen narrow roads into sterile autobahns.

Now the city's Historic Preservation Commission is on the verge of designating 100 trees (or stands of trees) as historic treasures. Arborist Mark Wisniewski — think of a blithe Santa Claus from Santa Cruz — will finish his exhaustive study in a month or two.

But a key question remains unresolved.

Should landowners be forbidden from cutting down healthy heritage trees? Remember, Del Mar crossed that line. Carlsbad is reluctant to go there. But the question begs for an answer. Here's why:

On Monday morning, tree cutters arrived at the Monterey Condominiums on Lincoln Street (near Highway 101) to cut down two Canary Island date palms that are at least 70 years old. Several outraged

condo owners gathered to protest, the cops and Councilwoman Ann Kulchin were called, and the execution never took place.

These aren't your garden variety palm trees.

The landmark palms were planted in front of his adobe house by Luther Gage, a pioneer horticulturalist in the major league of the Frazeees and the Eckes. Gage introduced the ranunculus flower, Carlsbad's signature flower.

(By the way, as an overnight rental, his 77-year-old home is a steal at around \$200. Sleeps eight a block from the beach.)

On Monday night, the Historical Society and the Historic Preservation Commission passed matching resolutions to urge the homeowners association board to stop and listen to arguments for the trees' preservation.

The board, which includes savvy political consultant Jack Orr, believes the trees are a towering nuisance. A tree trimmer was stung last year by particularly aggressive bees. The board's bottom line: Life would just be easier if they were cut down. No danger of falling branches. No fear of liability. Cut 'em.

That will happen over dead bodies. Dissident condo owners will chain themselves to the trees. Who knows? Maybe one will scale a palm and set up house in the fronds.

Fortunately, a temporary truce was struck Tuesday.

But the Pragmatics and the Romantics are clearly suspicious of each other.

Ultimately, Carlsbad must decide how serious it is about protecting its heritage trees on private property.

It could pass a punitive Del Mar-style ordinance. Or it could come up with carrots, perhaps offering the services of an arborist to assess the elderly palms — and the beehive. Furthermore, the city or tree-loving individuals could "adopt" the trees, which might involve upkeep and the assumption of liability.

Meanwhile, in a galaxy far away called La Costa, someone ordered someone to butcher dozens of mature eucalyptus right before Christmas. Walking around the park, you'd think a tornado had touched down.

Police call the massacre a case of felony vandalism with damages in excess of \$100,000.

Always high, the value of trees keeps growing.

8.25

Logan Jenkins can be reached at (760) 752-6739 or by e-mail at logan.jenkins@uniontrib.com.



Condo holds off on palm removal

■ Carlsbad tree
advocates ask city
to help save two
70-foot palms

MICHAEL J. WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

CARLSBAD — Two towering palm trees fronting a historic house in a condominium complex probably will be spared the chain saw for at least a month as a result of a decision by the property's board of directors.

In response to pleas to save the trees, the Monterey Home-

owners Association's board will hold off on having the trees removed so the board can hold a meeting with homeowners to discuss the issue, said board Director Jack Orr.

The removal of the 70-foot Canary Island palms had been scheduled for Jan. 8. Condo owners and residents who oppose their removal called the city, and with the help of city officials convinced the board to postpone the action at least a day. The board subsequently agreed to a lengthier delay, Orr said.

"We've been promised they won't take the trees down at least until Feb. 10," said condo

► PALM, B-3

► PALM

Continued from B-1

Preservation commission to send letters to condo board

owner Laurie Boone. "I'm hopeful these people will be open-minded and listen. We want to preserve those trees, not just because they're on our property but because they are part of the entire history of Carlsbad. I think we need to listen and consider the issue before we tear down something that's taken over 70 years to grow to that stature."

The city's Historical Preservation Commission and the Carlsbad Historical Society in a meeting Monday evening agreed to send letters to the board urging the directors to leave the trees in place.

A study ordered by the commission has identified the trees as historically significant because of their location in front of the historic Cage House. Built in 1934 by one of the city's pioneering nurseryman, Luther Gage, the house is part of the condominium complex proper-

ty. Arborist Marc Wisniewski estimated the trees' value on the wholesale market at a minimum of \$24,500.

Orr said the board's decision was based on liability risks and maintenance costs associated with the trees, which he contends have grown too high to be easily maintained and are infested by bees.

"It's strictly a pragmatic, business decision," Orr said. "We have a fiduciary responsibility to our homeowners as well as the board of directors and safety takes precedence over aesthetics. If those who want to preserve the trees come forward with any alternative solutions, we'll entertain them very seriously."

Jim Campbell, who performs landscape maintenance on the property, said he agrees the trees are hazardous.

"These trees are very dangerous," Campbell said. "When the fronds come down from 70 feet they could hit someone and kill them. I've had some close calls there. Nobody knows when they're going to crack and fall. They'll chop off somebody's head if they come down from that height."

Contact staff writer Michael J. Williams at (760) 901-4082 or mwilliams@nctimes.com.



TREES & BEES

Arborist pledges to help save palms

BARBARA BRILL
FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

CARLSBAD — A Ramona arborist who almost lost his life trimming one of the two stately palm trees at the entrance of the Monterey Condominiums, has pledged to help homeowners save the trees from destruction.

On Oct. 19, Rich Magargal, working as a subcontractor for Vista Tree Service, was at the top of the 65-foot trunk of one of the two Canary Island date palm trees at the complex on Lincoln Street when he was stung by approximately 50 bees that were nesting in the other palm.

"I thought I would die," said Magargal, who, despite being hospitalized for one night following the attack, refers to the insects as "magnificent little creatures who are extremely necessary for our survival."

"But, I'm ready to climb the trees again and finish my work," he said, adding that he is baffled as to why the home-



HAYNE PALMOUR / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Arborist Rich Magargal of Ramona peers through binoculars Thursday to make sure there are no bees. Magargal was nearly killed by about 50 bee stings while he was trimming the palm tree next to the one he is looking at, in October. He wants to save the palm trees at the Monterey Condominiums in Carlsbad from being cut down.

► PALMS, B-5

► PALMS

Continued from B-1

Arborist disagrees with association's belief that the trees should come down

owners' association is seeking to demolish the pair of palms. The palms have been identified as heritage trees in a study being done by arborist Mark Wisniewski for the city's Historic Preservation Commission.

According to minutes of the association's Nov. 16 meeting, "no trimming of the palms is now possible because of the very real danger posed by the hive of apparently Africanized bees in the trees."

Association members have said the trees should come down if they can't be trimmed.

On Thursday, at the Monterey Condominium site that also includes the historic home of Carlsbad pioneer Luther Gage, Magargal verified that the bees are indeed gone following the removal of the hive by the association.

"I cannot find one reason why the trees should come down — unless someone just doesn't like trees," said Magargal.

"They are incredibly healthy and just love where they are. And, they are valuable. If once every two years (the trees) are trimmed properly, making a crown tight and shaped like a ball, the bees won't come back.

'If once every two years (the trees) are trimmed properly, making a crown tight ... the bees won't come back.'

— RICH MAGARGAL
Ramona arborist

There will be no place for them to nest," he said, pointing out that he has never during his 40 years of trimming trees seen bees nest if work is done correctly.

"And, if the trees are properly trimmed, pigeons, sparrows and rats will stay away, too."

Magargal observed in October that the two heritage trees

were laden with dead fronds and had not been trimmed for four to six years. "When there is a dead frond or two, that's the time to call for a tree trimmer," he said, adding that palms are not really a tree but actually more closely related to grass.

"We would like to fulfill our contract and finish the trimming," said Mike Grande, owner of Vista Tree Service.

"We've been ready to go, but the board broke the contract," said Grande, adding that he was told the association hired another company to demolish the trees.

Following a request from homeowners, the association had planned a meeting for Feb. 10 to discuss the fate of the 70- to 90-year-old trees that were initially slated for removal Jan. 8.

"It was such a shock to receive notice Wednesday that the meeting date had been changed to Feb. 13," said Laurie Boone, one of the homeowners.

"There are a lot of absentee

owners who could attend a Saturday meeting, but having it on a Tuesday in the middle of the day is not good timing for a lot of people," she said.

The notice to the homeowners also states that members are welcome to bring experts qualified to speak about permanent eradication of the bees, liability

concerning bees and falling debris and the legal responsibility of the board.

Speakers will be limited to three minutes during the meeting from 1 to 2 p.m. at Heritage Hall in Magee Park.

"That's not enough time for such an important issue," said Boone.

Heritage trees get a year's reprieve

■ Two Canary Island date palms to get trimmed, but liability still in question

BARBARA BRILL

FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

CARLSBAD — Two heritage trees at Monterey Pines Condominiums have been spared from the chain saw again, but this time for at least a year.

On Feb. 12, homeowners at the Lincoln Avenue complex received notice from the association's board of directors that the thrice rescheduled meeting to discuss the fate of the two trees was canceled for Feb. 17 and that further action regarding the removal of the trees has been suspended.

"People are griping about everything and the news media has caused so much static," said Jack Fancher, the president of the association.

"We'll get the trees trimmed and see what happens for about a year. But, we are still interested in receiving opinions from experts about liability."

The 70-foot Canary Island date palms at the entrance to the condominium complex, built around the historic home of Carlsbad pioneer Luther Gage, have been the subject of dispute since Jan. 8, when protests from homeowners and tenants prevented the removal of the trees for a month.

"Now we have a year to see what happens. It's a miracle. I am so excited and so relieved," said Suzy Hockett, a homeowner who hired an attorney and set up a \$2,000 trust to pay for the maintenance of the trees, if necessary.

Cost for sounding and trimming the trees, which is recommended every two years, would run approximately \$600.

The trees have been identified as historically and culturally significant by Mark Wisniewski, the arborist hired by the

city's Historic Preservation Commission to identify heritage trees in the downtown area.

"I'm optimistic and hopeful that our board of directors will learn to appreciate the value of these historic trees," said another concerned homeowner, Laurie Boone, who hired horticulturist Mark Robinson to inspect the heritage trees.

According to Robinson, following a visual inspection, the trees are healthy and sound. And, according to Rich Magargal, the arborist and Canary Island date palm specialist who was stung by approximately 50 bees while trimming one of the trees in October: "I cannot find one reason why the trees should come down. If the trees are trimmed properly every two years, the bees won't come back. There will be no place for them to nest."

Since Jan. 8, many of the homeowners who consider the trees a valuable asset because of their size and their historic and monetary value have challenged the association's concerns regarding bees, falling fronds, inability to obtain bids from tree trimmers and liability issues.

Magargal, who was working as a subcontractor for Vista Tree Service, almost lost his life because of the bees.

And, it was this incident that led to the board's decision to remove the trees.

During the storm this week, one large frond fell, which Fancher said could have injured someone.

However, he did admit that the trees have not been fully trimmed because of the incident with Magargal. "We want him to come back to finish his work," said Fancher.

Magargal is willing. "I'm ready to climb the trees again and finish my work," he said. And, Mike Grande of Vista Tree Service agrees.

"We've been ready for months. We're just waiting for the word from the association."



JAMIE SCOTT LYTLE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Arborist Mark Wisniewski is completing a study identifying historic trees in and around downtown Carlsbad such as this dawn redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, in Holiday Park. This tree was once thought to be extinct.

Trees used to map Carlsbad's history

TIM MAYER
STAFF WRITER

CARLSBAD — Mark Wisniewski has spent the last year walking around much of old Carlsbad, identifying and mapping trees which may be important to the city's history and heritage.

In the bright sunlight at Holiday Park on Thursday, arborist and landscaper Wisniewski proudly displayed some of his finds.

Over there is a towering dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), which was known only through fossil records until its rediscovery in

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a small valley in China in 1946.

"It was worshipped as the home of a god in one village," he said. "It's one of my favorite trees," Wisniewski said. "It's fast growing and its foliage is soft and bright green."

There are 75- to 100-year-old eucalyptus trees, liquid amber and a Peruvian pepper tree. And over here is a bunya-bunya conifer from Australia — watch out walking under this one. Its cones can weigh 10 pounds each.

Wisniewski is finishing up a \$5,000 study commissioned by the city's Historic Preservation Commission to identify, map and possibly help preserve trees important to the city's heritage because of their history, age, rarity, size and beauty.

What he's come up with after walking the entire area seven times over is a final list of 110 examples of more than 80 species which came from all over the world, including Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Mexico, South America, Africa and the Mediterranean.

"I was really amazed at the variety," he said. "I had under-anticipated the variety of really unique species we would encounter. One of the interesting things is, there are very few native trees planted in the entire area, and very few of heritage quality."

Indeed, a large California sycamore at Buena Vista Lagoon is apparently the only natural native, he said. "Everything else, somebody put in the ground here."

What do they say about early history?

"From very early on, trees were highly valued by set-

tlers," he said. "Early photos show tree-studded streets, and trees were used to market the city."

Historic Preservation Commissioner Don Christiansen said the study is important.

"It's my feeling that there's a lot more to history than sticks and bricks," said Christiansen. "There are a number of trees in our community that have been here a lot longer than any of our residents."

"If the trees could talk, they would have a lot of good stories to tell," he said. "But since they can't, they can still be acknowledged and appreciated."

Assistant Carlsbad Library Director Geoff Armour, who works with the commission, hopes the map Wisniewski developed can eventually be duplicated in brochures with historic photos showing the trees when they were but saplings.

The brochures and maps

could be used to guide tree- and history-loving visitors and residents on walking tours, he said. People in Carlsbad take their trees seriously, Armour said.

"People fall in love with trees, particularly in their own street or neighborhood," he said.

Armour said the study began with the downtown Village area as well as Holiday Park because they are the oldest sections of the city. Plans have Wisniewski conducting a second phase of the study in an area extending from Buena Vista Lagoon on the north to Agua Hedionda Lagoon on the south and east toward El Camino Real, he said.

When the new study begins, residents will be asked to nominate interesting trees on their property or in their neighborhoods as candidates for the list.

APPENDIX J

Appendix J:

California Government Code on “Topping”

How to use this information

This is a copy of California Government Code Section 53067 provided for informational and educational purposes. It discusses the negative aspects of topping trees and discusses the benefits of proper pruning and advises the promotion of the applicable pruning standards available at the time to improve the quality tree pruning while reducing tree pruning costs. These standards have been modified in the intervening years. The current International Society of Arboriculture pruning guidelines are provided under Appendix K.

53067. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(1) That trees and other woody plants respond in specific and predictable ways to pruning and other maintenance practices.

(2) That careful scientific studies indicate that arboriculture practices including, but not limited to, "topping" are often misunderstood and misapplied.

(3) That the results of the 1988 California urban forestry survey prepared by Plant Science and Research for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Urban Forestry Program summarizes that an estimated 5.9 million street trees are managed by California cities of which approximately 30 percent of the cities and 20 counties do not have tree ordinances of any kind. That in 1988 an estimated one hundred nine million dollars (\$109,000,000) statewide was spent on municipal tree maintenance, less than 1 percent of most city and county budgets, with an average of sixteen dollars and 82 cents (\$16.82) per street and park tree per year and an average of four dollars and 68 cents (\$4.68) per resident per year. California's city governments support urban forestry. Support for tree programs is highest in communities where citizens are involved.

Conclusions of the urban forestry survey state that most cities need an aggressive tree planting program to maintain tree densities at current levels, to keep pace with urban growth, increase species diversity, maintain the health and vigor of their trees, and put more effort into long-term master planning of urban forests. To derive the maximum ecological benefit from the urban forest, the current trend towards planting smaller trees will need to be reversed. Counties lag far behind cities in urban forestry efforts. Most tree programs need to put greater emphasis on educating the public on the benefits the urban forest provides. A healthy flourishing urban forest cannot be developed and maintained without foresight, proper care, and good management.

(4) That the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Guidelines for Developing and Evaluating Tree Ordinances 1991 publications states that an ordinance shall be developed for the purpose of prohibiting topping of public and private trees. Topping is the practice of cutting back large diameter branches of a mature tree to stubs and is a particularly destructive pruning practice. It is stressful to mature trees, and may result in reduced vigor, decline, or even death of trees. In addition, new branches that form below the cuts are only weakly attached to the tree and are in danger of splitting out. Topped trees require constant maintenance to prevent this from happening and it is often impossible to restore the structure of the tree crown after topping. Unfortunately many people believe that topping is a proper way to prune a tree, and this destructive practice is prevalent in some communities.

(5) That in an effort to promote practices that encourage the preservation of tree structure, and public safety and health, these standards developed through careful scientific studies by leading industry consultants, United States Department of Forestry scientists, and professors of horticulture and plant pathology, are recognized standards by the Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, University of California Co-operative Extension Farm advisers, the National Arborist Association, the International Society of Arboriculture,

American Forestry Association, and numerous tree planting and preservation organizations throughout the state and nation.

(6) That those standards are working guidelines, recognizing that trees are individually unique in form and structure and that their pruning or maintenance needs may not always fit strict rules.

(7) That the International Society of Arboriculture founded in 1924 with over 21 chapters throughout the world publishes the monthly Journal of Arboriculture which is devoted to the dissemination of knowledge in the science and art of growing and maintaining shade and ornamental trees. The Journal of Arboriculture, March 1988, Volume 14, No. 3, page 76, states that properly trimmed trees not only require less manhours on their next cycle but some may not even need trimming. This conclusion was based on a study performed at Delmarva Power in Maryland during the 1982-84 trim cycles. Results indicate a 25 percent reduction in work force and a 7.4 percent reduction in costs in the first three years.

(8) That the use of proper tree maintenance techniques benefits the public because of reduced costs, reduced hazards, reduced public liability, protection from premature decline or death (conserving energy reducing carbon dioxide and ozone, absorbing particulate matter, producing more oxygen by increasing canopy spread, reduction in wind speed, reducing noise pollution, increasing real property values, enhancing visual and aesthetic qualities that attract visitors and businesses, serve as a source of community image and pride by providing maximum shade and canopy cover). As canopy cover increases the public benefits increase.

(9) (A) The Legislature's findings recognize that topping of trees is a widespread misunderstood consumer request and this form of pruning detracts from public benefits including, but not limited to, safety and property values, and causes premature decline, death, disease, insects, woodrot, and increased maintenance costs. These findings also recognize that a great number of personnel performing maintenance on trees unknowingly and unintentionally produce irreversible harm.

(B) The Legislature finds that nonregulated commercial tree service firms that advertise topping are widespread among commercial advertising including the yellow pages, but not limited to newspaper advertising, and that millions of dollars have been spent topping trees including publicly owned trees.

(C) The Legislature finds that modern techniques utilized by certified arborists through scientific study and continued education are of value and benefit to the citizens of California and to all who care for our resources.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection through Sections 4799.06 to 4799.12, inclusive, of the Public Resources Code, shall to the extent possible, furnish to every public agency, including the state, but not limited to, a city and county, school district, or community college district copies of these publications as listed: Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture Pruning Standards, California Department of Parks and Recreation specifications for pruning trees, and National Arborist Association Standards of pruning shade trees.

Source: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>

APPENDIX K

Appendix K: International Society of Arboriculture “Best Management Practices – Tree Pruning”

How to use this information

The correct application of these Best Management Practices when used by properly trained arborists and tree workers can improve the health, structure, appearance and longevity of not just the City’s Heritage Trees, but all of the City’s publicly maintained trees and privately maintained trees as well. This can be accomplished while at the same time reducing overall pruning and removal costs and improving overall tree care.

Best Management Practices have been developed as a tool to assist in the implementation and interpretation of the American National Standards for Pruning (ANSI A300). Please refer to “Appendix L” of this report.

Pruning Objectives excerpted from the current International Society of Arboriculture “Best Management Practices – Tree Pruning” are provided below as a reference.

“No tree should be pruned without first establishing clearly defined objectives.

Table 1. Objectives of pruning.

- Reduce risk of failure
- Provide clearance
- Reduce shade and wind resistance
- Maintain health
- Influence flower or fruit production
- Improve a view
- Improve aesthetics”

(Gilman and Lilly pg. 4)

Alex Shigo, who developed and promoted the concept of modern arboriculture, often stated that “Pruning is one of the best things an arborist can do for a tree but one of the worst things we can do to a tree.”

APPENDIX L

Appendix L:
American National Standard for Tree Care Operations –
“Tree Shrub and Other Woody Plant Maintenance –
Standard Practices (Pruning)”
ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning

How to use this information

The A300 standard offers basic performance standards. It is intended as a guide for drafting maintenance specifications.

The application of this standard when used by properly trained arborists and tree workers can improve the health, structure, appearance and longevity of not just the City's Heritage Trees, but all of the City's publicly maintained trees and privately maintained trees as well. This standard should be used in conjunction with the International Society of Arboriculture “Best Management Practices – Tree Pruning” (refer to Appendix K), safety standards including ANSI Z133.1-2000, and any applicable state and local regulations.

The basis for the standards was to “present performance standards for the care and maintenance of trees, shrubs and other woody plants...Specifications for tree maintenance should be written and administered by an arborist.”
(ANSI A300, pg. 1)

“Arborist: An individual engaged in the profession of arboriculture who through experience, education and related training possesses the competence to provide for or supervise the management of trees and other woody plants.”
(ANSI A300, pg. 2)

APPENDIX M

Appendix M: “Tree Hazard Evaluation Form”

How to use this information

A copy of the current International Society of Arboriculture “Tree Hazard Evaluation Form” copied from Matheny & Clark’s publication “A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas – Second Edition”, is provided.

(Matheny & Clark pgs. 40 & 41)

It is the intent of both the authors and the publisher that arborists can copy and utilize this form in their work in evaluating trees.

“Hazard tree evaluation is the systemic process of assessing the potential for a tree or one of its parts to fail and injure people or damage property. The primary goal of hazard evaluation is to identify potentially hazardous trees so they can be treated before failure occurs. All hazards can not be eliminated. However, by evaluating trees and rating the hazards associated with them, the arborist can prioritize and schedule abatement treatments to reduce the level of risk.”

(Matheny & Clark pg. 37)

“The intensity of the hazard examination for a given site depends upon the level of resolution appropriate for the situation. In some cases, detailed scrutiny of individual trees may be required, particularly for significant trees in high use locations.”

(Matheny & Clark pg. 38)

“Since hazard tree evaluation is a process that weighs a wide range of information, the evaluator needs a systematic method of recording observations and measurements. Written documentation is especially critical if the program is part of risk management effort.”

(Matheny & Clark pg. 38)

The arborist performing the evaluations should be familiar not just with the form and the guide, but must be competent to perform the work and interpret the observations. Periodic hazard evaluations should be part of the ongoing management of the City’s publicly-owned Heritage Trees.



A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas
TREE HAZARD EVALUATION FORM 2nd Edition

Site/Address: _____
Map/Location: _____
Owner: public _____ private _____ unknown _____ other _____
Date: _____ Inspector: _____
Date of last inspection: _____

HAZARD RATING:

Failure Potential	+	Size of part	+	Target Rating	=	Hazard Rating
_____ Immediate action needed						
_____ Needs further inspection						
_____ Dead tree						

TREE CHARACTERISTICS

Tree #: _____ Species: _____
DBH: _____ # of trunks: _____ Height: _____ Spread: _____
Form: ☐ generally symmetric ☐ minor asymmetry ☐ major asymmetry ☐ stump sprout ☐ stag-headed
Crown class: ☐ dominant ☐ co-dominant ☐ intermediate ☐ suppressed
Live crown ratio: _____ % Age class: ☐ young ☐ semi-mature ☐ mature ☐ over-mature/senescent
Pruning history: ☐ crown cleaned ☐ excessively thinned ☐ topped ☐ crown raised ☐ pollarded ☐ crown reduced ☐ flush cuts ☐ cabled/braced
☐ none ☐ multiple pruning events Approx. dates: _____
Special Value: ☐ specimen ☐ heritage/historic ☐ wildlife ☐ unusual ☐ street tree ☐ screen ☐ shade ☐ indigenous ☐ protected by gov. agency

TREE HEALTH

Foliage color: ☐ normal ☐ chlorotic ☐ necrotic Epicormics? Y N
Foliage density: ☐ normal ☐ sparse Leaf size: ☐ normal ☐ small
Annual shoot growth: ☐ excellent ☐ average ☐ poor Twig Dieback? Y N
Woundwood development: ☐ excellent ☐ average ☐ poor ☐ none
Vigor class: ☐ excellent ☐ average ☐ fair ☐ poor
Major pests/diseases: _____

Growth obstructions:

☐ stakes ☐ wire/ties ☐ signs ☐ cables
☐ curb/pavement ☐ guards
☐ other _____

SITE CONDITIONS

Site Character: ☐ residence ☐ commercial ☐ industrial ☐ park ☐ open space ☐ natural ☐ woodland/forest
Landscape type: ☐ parkway ☐ raised bed ☐ container ☐ mound ☐ lawn ☐ shrub border ☐ wind break
Irrigation: ☐ none ☐ adequate ☐ inadequate ☐ excessive ☐ trunk wetted
Recent site disturbance? Y N ☐ construction ☐ soil disturbance ☐ grade change ☐ line clearing ☐ site clearing
% dripline paved: 0% 10-25% 25-50% 50-75% 75-100% Pavement lifted? Y N
% dripline w/ fill soil: 0% 10-25% 25-50% 50-75% 75-100%
% dripline grade lowered: 0% 10-25% 25-50% 50-75% 75-100%
Soil problems: ☐ drainage ☐ shallow ☐ compacted ☐ droughty ☐ saline ☐ alkaline ☐ acidic ☐ small volume ☐ disease center ☐ history of fail
☐ clay ☐ expansive ☐ slope _____° aspect: _____
Obstructions: ☐ lights ☐ signage ☐ line-of-sight ☐ view ☐ overhead lines ☐ underground utilities ☐ traffic ☐ adjacent veg. ☐ _____
Exposure to wind: ☐ single tree ☐ below canopy ☐ above canopy ☐ recently exposed ☐ windward, canopy edge ☐ area prone to windthrow
Prevailing wind direction: _____ Occurrence of snow/ice storms ☐ never ☐ seldom ☐ regularly

TARGET

Use Under Tree: ☐ building ☐ parking ☐ traffic ☐ pedestrian ☐ recreation ☐ landscape ☐ hardscape ☐ small features ☐ utility lines
Can target be moved? Y N Can use be restricted? Y N
Occupancy: ☐ occasional use ☐ intermittent use ☐ frequent use ☐ constant use

The International Society of Arboriculture assumes no responsibility for conclusions or recommendations derived from use of this form.

TREE DEFECTS

ROOT DEFECTS:

Suspect root rot: Y N Mushroom/conk/bracket present: Y N ID: _____

Exposed roots: ☐ severe ☐ moderate ☐ low Undermined: ☐ severe ☐ moderate ☐ low

Root pruned: _____ distance from trunk Root area affected: _____% Buttress wounded: Y N When: _____

Restricted root area: ☐ severe ☐ moderate ☐ low Potential for root failure: ☐ severe ☐ moderate ☐ low

LEAN: _____ deg. from vertical ☐ natural ☐ unnatural ☐ self-corrected Soil heaving: Y N

Decay in plane of lean: Y N Roots broken Y N Soil cracking: Y N

Compounding factors: _____ Lean severity: ☐ severe ☐ moderate ☐ low

CROWN DEFECTS: Indicate presence of individual defects and rate their severity (s = severe, m = moderate, l = low)

DEFECT	ROOT CROWN	TRUNK	SCAFFOLDS	BRANCHES
Poor taper				
Bow, sweep				
Codominants/forks				
Multiple attachments				
Included bark				
Excessive end weight				
Cracks/splits				
Hangers				
Girdling				
Wounds/seam				
Decay				
Cavity				
Conks/mushrooms/bracket				
Bleeding/sap flow				
Loose/cracked bark				
Nesting hole/bee hive				
Deadwood/stubs				
Borers/termites/ants				
Cankers/galls/burls				
Previous failure				

HAZARD RATING

Tree part most likely to fail: _____

Inspection period: _____ annual _____ biannual _____ other _____

Failure Potential + Size of Part + Target Rating = Hazard Rating

_____ + _____ + _____ = _____

Failure potential: 1 - low; 2 - medium; 3 - high; 4 - severe

Size of part: 1 - <6" (15 cm); 2 - 6-18" (15-45 cm);
3 - 18-30" (45-75 cm); 4 - >30" (75 cm)

Target rating: 1 - occasional use; 2 intermittent use;
3 - frequent use; 4 - constant use

HAZARD ABATEMENT

Prune: ☐ remove defective part ☐ reduce end weight ☐ crown clean ☐ thin ☐ raise canopy ☐ crown reduce ☐ restructure ☐ shape

Cable/Brace: _____, Inspect further: ☐ root crown ☐ decay ☐ aerial ☐ monitor

Remove tree: Y N Replace? Y N Move target: Y N Other: _____

Effect on adjacent trees: ☐ none ☐ evaluate

Notification: ☐ owner ☐ manager ☐ governing agency Date: _____

COMMENTS

Specimen: TREE HAZARD EVALUATION FORM, Page 2

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